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DEPUTY ON U.S. MISSILE DEPLOYMENT IN CHILE

PY112042 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1431 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Mar (EFE) -- According to press reports, Juan Manuel Casella, president of the Chamber of Deputies Defense Committee, has ruled out the possibility of U.S. missiles being deployed in Chilean territory. However, the Radical Civic Union deputy said that if the missiles were deployed, "the Argentine answer must be strong, because the missiles would be deployed in a disputed area of the Americas."

Casella indicated that studies are being made for a military reorganization "aimed at improving the role of the Armed Forces in the southern, northeastern, and northwestern areas of the country as part of a joint program that had not been devised until now." The areas mentioned are the ones bordering Chile and Brazil, which according to the new strategic policies of the Armed Forces Joint Staff, are the only potential adversaries.

Regarding reforms, the legislator also announced an 18-percent reduction in the budget of the Armed Forces and the security forces. Casella said that in 1983, military expenditures reached 40 percent of the total budget.

GOBBI RESIGNATION ENDS FOREIGN MINISTRY "CRISIS"

PY092325 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2110 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Mar (NA) -- The resignation today of Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Hugo Gobbi seems to have ended the crisis that developed within the Foreign Ministry following disagreements between Gobbi and Elsa Kelly, the secretary of state for foreign relations.

On making the announcement, Foreign Minister Dante Caputo said that Jorge Federico Sabato will be the new Foreign Ministry Under Secretary and that President Alfonsin offered Gobbi an important position abroad which, according to reliable sources, might be the post of ambassador to Spain.

The crisis within the Foreign Ministry came to light on 23 February, while Kelly was on a mission in Nicaragua and while reports that the foreign minister would introduce changes in his team were made public in Buenos Aires.

According to the reports, Caputo and Gobbi had had disagreements with Kelly, who was to be offered the post of ambassador to Italy, while her post was to be occupied by Oscar Torres Avalos. Minister Caputo reacted immediately and issued a communique in which he denied all the information leaked by the Foreign Ministry and said he had the honor of heading the Foreign Ministry team.

Before leaving on a brief tour of Europe and America on 25 February, Caputo held a short meeting with Kelly at Ezeiza Airport, upon her arrival from Managua. Kelly had previously met with Gobbi.

At that time, Caputo, Kelly, and Gobbi refused to talk about the issue, which they dismissed as unimportant. However, a feeling that a change would be introduced in the team had remained ever since.

TRADE DELEGATION LEAVES FOR GDR, CUBA, MEXICO

PY101341 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2331 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 9 Mar (TELAM) -- Commerce Secretary Ricardo Campero this afternoon left for the GDR, Cuba, and Mexico, heading a delegation made up of representatives of the Argentine public and private sectors. The delegation is comprised of Deputy Norberto Imbelloni (Justicialist Party -- Buenos Aires), member of the Commerce Committee in the Chamber of Deputies; Senator Juan Trilla (Radical Civic Union -- Buenos Aires); and representatives of business organizations which make up the Foreign Trade Advisory Council.

In the GDR, where the delegation will stay until 13 March, they will attend the Leipzig International Fair, one of the most important world fairs, where Argentina will officially participate with an exhibit that the GDR president will visit this month. Campero also intends to hold a meeting with the GDR foreign trade minister, during which they will define the operations being carried out between the two countries for exports to the GDR of Argentine capital goods, industrial products, and wine.

In addition to this meeting, the Argentine delegation will hold working meetings with the official delegations of India, Indonesia, Kuwait, Syria, Angola, and Mozambique to study bilateral economic and trade relations and the possibility of increasing sales of Argentine goods and services to those countries.

In Cuba, the Argentine delegation will participate in the third meeting of the Argentine-Cuban foreign trade work group, which is provided for in the commercial agreement signed between the two countries.

On 17 March in Mexico City, Campero will meet with his Mexican counterpart to study the results of the joint commission meeting that is being held here from 9 - 13 March at the level of under secretaries. They will also discuss commercial matters that will be on the agenda of President Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado's visit to Argentina in April 1984.

UNIVERSITY RECTOR REVEALS LIBYAN ARMS DEAL

PY112132 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2315 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Excerpt] San Miguel de Tucuman, 10 Mar (NA) -- Priest Anibal Frosberi, rector of the Catholic University of Santo Tomas de Aquino, has admitted having been a member of a commission that negotiated the delivery of weapons from the Libyan to the Argentine Government during the Malvinas war.

According to today's issue of the local daily LA TARDE Frosberi reportedly revealed this information during a meeting with university instructors, who had asked him to explain the repeated accusations by student groups of Tucuman National University.

The priest, who belongs to the Dominican Order, reportedly revealed that during the war he was a member of a commission that established contacts with the Libyan regime of Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and that some of its members made secret trips to Libya. He said that during the trips the commission was able to negotiate and obtain nothing more and nothing less than three truck loads of weapons which were given by the Al-Qadhdhafi government for free.

LA TARDE also said that the negotiations with the Libyan regime that began before the war were initiated through Eduardo Sarme (also a university professor), who is a Muslim teaching theology in a cultural exchange program with Libya.

DEPUTIES DEMAND DETAILS ON FALKLANDS ISSUE

PY102145 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1912 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 10 Mar (NA) -- Three Justicialist deputies have submitted a draft resolution asking the government to explain to Congress whether it has agreed to "negotiate with Great Britain" on the Malvinas issue, "leaving for some uncertain future a solution to the conflict over the sovereignty" of the Georgias, the South Sandwich, and these islands.

The draft resolution also proposes to ask whether the Argentine Government has accepted the mediation of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, something that would be severely criticized if rumors in this regard prove to be true.

The deputies also questioned the fact that the government is continuing the policy of "secret diplomacy" which prevailed during the military regime, citing the lack of official information on the nature of talks which are being held on the subject.

The draft resolution was submitted to the Chamber of Deputies on Friday by Peronist Deputies Miguel Unamuno, Carlos Torres, and Hector Maya, who summarized their concerns in eight clauses.

BRITISH MP'S INTERVIEWED ON UPCOMING VISIT

PY081735 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1540 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Mar (NA) -- British MP's Cyril Townsend and George Foulkes today said that they are very interested in meeting with President Raul Alfonsin to discuss the possibility of resuming negotiations on the Malvinas Islands during the visit they will pay to Argentina in the second half of June. NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS today telephoned Townsend, of the currently ruling Conservative Party, and Foulkes, of the opposition Labor Party, in London to ask them about their coming trip to Buenos Aires.

Concerning the key subject of Malvinas sovereignty, Conservative Townsend said that he had no doubts that in Argentina "there will be many persons willing to discuss the subject, but I feel that it will be better to leave it aside at the beginning, at least until direct talks between the two countries can be reestablished, then it will be time to discuss sovereignty in detail."

Foulkes said that as a member of the opposition "it will be easier for me than for the (British) Government to discuss the sovereignty of the islands."

Townsend indicated that the final accord on the 100-year-old dispute "will take many years, and I hope that we will be able to at least establish diplomatic and commercial ties."

For his part, Foulkes said that a final solution "is possible, but would depend on the personalities of those involved in the negotiations." He added: "You know that our prime minister is not known for her flexibility."

Speaking about the possible contacts they will hold in Argentina during their visit, Townsend explained that "we would like to talk to Alfonsin and a few other politicians who know the issue." Foulkes added that "we would like to meet with Alfonsin, the foreign minister, and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee."

ICFTUO DELEGATION ARRIVES FOR TALKS WITH CGT

PY081715 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Excerpt] A delegation of the International Conference of Free Trade Union Organizations, ICFTUO, has arrived in Argentina to hold talks with the CGT [General Confederation of Labor] and, if possible, to meet with President Raul Alfonsin.

The delegation is made up of Manuel Simon from Spain, William Doherty from the United States, and Luigi Cal from Italy. CGT Secretary General Saul Ubaldini met the delegation at the airport.

POLICE CHIEF DISCUSSES ANTITERRORIST SQUAD

PY111830 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 10 Mar 84 p 9

[Text] Salta (NA) -- Federal Police Chief Antonio di Vietri yesterday confirmed that a special antiterrorist police squad is already in existence and "ready to spring into action at any moment." At a press conference here he revealed that the new force will have two main functions: intelligence activites, especially the collection of information, and antiterrorist operations.

Di Vietri also said the police force was "already democratic" and was now fulfilling "its true role," although in the past it had been used for "activites not in keeping with its specific fuctions." He reported that 80 kilos of cocaine worth 800 million dollars had been seized since he took over command of the force. But he refused to say whether any of the drug haul was linked to the so-called "Bolivian connection" allegedly involving former Bolivian President Luis Garcia Meza.

OIL WORKERS TU STEERING COMMITTEE CONFIRMED

PY081902 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1530 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Mar (TELAM) -- Marcos Alvarez, secretary general of the acting steering committee of the United Trade Union of State Petroleum Workers (SUPE), late yesterday afternoon said that the current steering committee was confirmed because the Labor Ministry did not appeal the pertinent judicial ruling. The judicial ruling was upheld; thus, the current steering committee is confirmed and the intervention at SUPE ordered by the Labor Ministry is rejected.

A communique signed by Alvarez states that since the Labor Ministry did not appeal the aforementioned ruling, the current steering committee is confirmed.

Soon after the judicial ruling was announced, the Celeste Blue faction of SUPE requested in writing that elections be held within 120 days, that these elections be supervised by a poll watcher, and that an inspector be appointed by the Labor Ministry for auditing union funds during the election period.

BRIEFS

NEW VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR -- Buenos Aires, 1 Mar (TELAM) -- The Foreign Ministry has reported that the government has agreed to the appointment of Ernesto Santander as the new Venezuelan ambassador to Argentina. The new diplomat replaces Jorge Dager. [Excerpt] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2350 GMT 1 Mar 84 PY]

FINANCE MINISTER ON PAYMENT OF FOREIGN DEBT

PY101243 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1100 GMT 10 Mar 84

[All figures as heard]

[Text] Finance Minister Fernando Baptista has reported that payments on the public foreign debt during 1983 totaled 175 billion Bolivian pesos, equivalent to $371.6 million. He explained that payments to private international banks amounted to $124.7 million, and payments to multilateral credit enterprises amounted to $246.9 million. Payments through the National Treasury amounted to 21,491,010,000 pesos, equivalent to $95.4 million. Payments through the Central Bank, charged to the National Treasury, amounted to 139,112,500,000 Bolivian pesos, equivalent to $276.2 million.

Referring to renegotiations with international private banks, he said that they will begin by the end of March or the beginning of April, but that there are no specific dates for renegotiating state debts.

PANDO SITUATION 'CRITICAL' DESPITE AGREEMENT

PY100140 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] Finance Minister Fernando Baptista Gumucio and the Bolivian Labor Federation [COB] of Pando Department today signed a document, showing that steps are being taken to meet all the demands that have been made by the Pando COB. This information was released by the executive secretary of the Pando COB, (Jorge Vega), who stressed that the workers of that region will now be able to count on a 15,000 peso food bonus.

[Begin (Vega) recording] In this respect, an agreement has been signed today with the finance minister regarding the duty free zone, and he has promised to submit next week the appropriate decree to the cabinet so that the regulations can be approved. Thus, the duty free zone of Cobija will be able to operate. Regarding the problem of the Guavira Supply Board, this problem has also been solved and it is now up to the mayor of Cobija, who has to clear up a few details. There are no more problems in this area.

With respect to the food bonus, we had asked for 25,000 pesos, but the minister has offered us 15,000 pesos, but with an important clause for the workers: Every time that the government approves an increase in the minimum national salary, the food bonus in Pando Department will be increased by an equal percentage. This means that every time there is an increase in the minimum salary, the food bonus will be increased accordingly.

In sum, these are the temporary solutions that we have achieved with the finance minister. [end recording]

Moreover, the executive secretary of the workers of Pando pointed out that because of the illiquidity of the Pando agency of the Central Bank he could not reject the possibility that the workers may apply pressure beginning next Monday. (Vega) stressed that the situation of the workers in that department is very critical.

[Begin (Vega) recording] The lack of money is the most critical situation that we are currently experiencing. The state bank, the agency of the Central Bank, at this time does not have any money and the February salaries have not been paid by any institution. This is why we workers are in a state of emergency and, according to the outcome of the meeting I will have tomorrow with the executive board of the Pando COB, we will outline the steps that will be taken beginning next Monday.

I want to point out that the idea of a stoppage or an indefinite general strike has not been rejected. It all depends on an extraordinary meeting to be held tonight, the results of which will be made known officially tomorrow.

Regrettably, we are totalling isolated in Cobija, because even the usual flights have been suspended owing to the lack of fuel. There are no communications in Guavira. We are concerned about this, and we hope that the government authorities will be made sensitive, that they can resolve all the points that we have submitted to them. [end recording]

ORURO PREFECT ON RIGHT-WING 'PARAMILITARY CELLS'

PY091910 Paris AFP in Spanish 1609 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] La Paz, 9 Mar (AFP) -- Victor Gonzales Ayala, prefect (governor) of Oruro Department, south of La Paz, has reported that right-wing European elements have arrived in the country and are organizing urban guerrilla groups to disrupt the current democratic process. According to the prefect, the ultraright-wing paramilitary cells are headquartered in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, 1,000 km east of La Paz, from where they plan to spread their conspiracy throughout the nation. He added that Interior Minister Federico Alvarez Plata's recent visit to Oruro was not only aimed at viewing the magnificent display of folklore during Carnival but especially to issue specific orders to quash these outbreaks of right-wing violence.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN RESIGNS -- La Paz, 3 Mar (EFE) -- Government sources reported today that Bolivian Ambassador to Spain Luis Adolfo Siles Salinas has submitted his resignation to Bolivian Foreign Minister Jose Ortiz Mercado. Siles Salinas gave the incoherent Bolivian foreign policy as the reason for his resignation. Foreign Minister Ortiz has urged him to withdraw his resignation add to continue at the head of the Bolivian Embassy in Madrid. [Excerpts] [Madrid EFE in Spanish 0020 GMT 4 Mar 84 PY]

GAS DEPOSIT DISCOVERED -- Bolivian Government Oil Deposits [YPFB] has officially announced the discovery of a gas and condensed oil deposit during the drilling of the Sirari-X1 (Sir-X1) well. The deposit was discovered at a depth of 2,290 meters. The Sirari-X1 well is located in Ichilo Province in Santa Cruz Department, 129 km northeast of the city of Santa Cruz. YPFB added that on 12 February, the well gave a daily production of 167 barrels of condensed oil with a density of 65.2 API degrees and 2,575 million cubic feet of gas with a pressure of 2,350 psi. [Summary] [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 17 Feb 84 p 1 PY]

COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH FRG -- The FRG and Bolivia yesterday signed a financial cooperation agreement whereby the FRG will grant DM 2 million to the Karachipampa Metallurgical Plant Association for its lead and silver smelting project. The Kred-Kreditanstalt fur Wiederaufbau and the Karachipampa Metallurgical Plant Association will sign another agreement to establish how the loan is to be used and the disbursement conditions. [Summary] [La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 18 Feb 84 p 3 PY]

YPFB BUYS TANKER TRUCKS -- Bolivian Government Oil Deposits [YPFB] has announced that it will import 120 tanker trucks to improve the distribution of gasoline and other fuels. YPFB commercial manager Oscar Salazar said that 35 tanker trucks will be imported this year and another 85 next year. [Summary] [La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1100 GMT 5 Mar 84 PY]

DIRECT PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS AMENDMENT VOTE SET

PY091305 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Carlos Rodrigues report from Brasilia]

[Excerpt] The Dante de Oliveira Amendment restoring direct presidential elections will be voted on 25 April. This date was set at a meeting yesterday Senate President Moacyr Dalla held with leaders of all political parties.

As the meeting began, Senator Aloisio Chaves, leader of the PDS [Social Democratic Party], stated that his party would agree to vote on the amendment on 25 April. Although Deputy Freitas Nobre of the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party] said that his party would prefer to vote on 11 April, the date of 25 April was agreed upon to facilitate understanding.

In view of the proposal by Senator Chaves, a meeting was held in the morning at the Planalto Palace. President Joao Figueiredo called a meeting of the Political Council, which is composed of five ministers, the President, and PDS leaders. A thorough analysis of the current political situation was made, and it was then decided that scheduling the voting on the Dante de Oliveira Amendment for 25 April would give the government time to examine the question and adopt a strategy, sending to Congress an alternative amendment proposal for reestablishing direct presidential elections in 1988.

AERONAUTICS MINISTER ON CONSTITUTION, ELECTIONS

PY092345 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Excerpt] The Armed Forces are the custodians of the Constitution, and they will accept any type of amendment that is made to it, guaranteeing its observance through the years. This assertion was made today in Salvador by Aeronautics Minister Jardim de Mattos Delio, who also said that he is not concerned about the date that direct elections for the presidency will be implemented.

PMDB WANTS DIRECT ELECTIONS 'IMMEDIATELY'

PY112059 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 10 Mar 84 p 1

[Excerpt] At a 4-hour meeting, Ulisses Guimaraes, the president of the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party] at the national level, PMDB Governors Franco Montoro and Tancredo Neves, and party leaders Humberto Lucena and Freitas Nobre decided that the party's position must be one of unyielding struggle for the immediate restoration of direct elections, not for the implementation of this system in 1988. The PMDB leaders also stated that they will accept changes to the Dante de Oliveira Amendment only if these changes will not raise obstacles to the voting on the amendment on 25 April.

DISSIDENT CRITICIZES PCB SECRETARY GENERAL

PY112321 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 11 Mar 84 p 7

[Excerpt] Sao Paulo -- One of the dissident leaders of the Brazilian Communist Party (PCB) in Sao Paulo, former leader Armenio Guedes, has said that the "ambiguity, opportunism, and lack of definition" of PCB Secretary General Giocondo Dias "are one more example of the political confusion prevailing in the current leadership."

Armenio Guedes -- who was not reelected a member of the Central Committee during the Seventh PCB Congress last January and who said that he learned about the congress from the newspapers -- made his criticisms in A ESQUERDA, a publication of the Sao Paulo dissidents. Guedes has accused the PCB leadership of carrying out "an internal struggle driven by selfish interests" with the sole purpose of "taking control of the party system." Guedes said that a revolutionary process similar to the ones carried out in other countries cannot be carried out in Brazil. He believes that "it is inconceivable in Brazil to have a socialism that, no matter how authoritarian its political power, just distributes social benefits."

Armenio Guedes says that the events in Poland -- where the Communist Party was replaced by a leadership of the military system and where a massive labor movement in support of democracy was violently repressed -- demand that communists have a clear position regarding the relationship between democracy and socialism. "It is not possible to fight our authoritarian military regime here and defend the Polish regime as legitimate. What credibility can a party have when it talks about democracy and at the same time expresses support for the authoritarian solution of the Polish crisis?" Guedes asked, criticizing the support given by the PCB leadership to the Polish Government of General Jaruzelski.

DISBURSEMENT OF $6.5 BILLION LOAN TO BEGIN

PY091425 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Finance Minister Ernane Galveas has announced that international private banks are beginning to disburse the $6.5 billion syndicated loan. The first $1-billion installment will be released today, and two more installments will be released on 13 and 23 March.

BRIEFS

NEW TANK TYPE -- The Bernardini Industry has begun to manufacture a 30-ton medium tank known as the MB-3 Tamoio. It is equipped with 90-mm or 105-mm cannon firing in a flat trajectory at supersonic speed; 7.62-mm coaxial machine guns, and 12.7-mm antiaircraft machine guns. The tank is 2.20 meters high, 3.10 meters wide, and 6.5 meters long. It is powered by a 600 hp diesel engine and can move as fast as 60 kph, with an autonomy of 800 kilometers or 8 hours in combat. It is also equipped with a firing computer, a laser range finder, and a night vision device, and can carry a crew of four. [Summary] [Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 8 Feb 84 p 16 PY]

COMPUTERIZED TANK FIRING SYSTEM -- The heavy Brazilian tank Osorio, to start production in 1985, will be equipped with a Brazilian-made computerized firing system, as well as Brazilian-made HF and VHF radios. The system is composed of a computer which receives input from a laser telemeter coupled with an electric optic device. [Summary] [Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 1 Mar 84 p 15 PY]

SURFACE-TO-SURFACE MISSILE -- The surface-to-surface Otomat missile will be built by the firm ABC-Sistemas with Italian technology. The missile is fit for any kind of ship, including patrol boats. ABC-Sistemas plans to supply the Brazilian Navy with the Otomat missiles. [Summary] [Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 20 Feb 84 p 12 PY]

SAO PAULO STATE SECRETARY -- Roberto (Gusmao) is the new Sao Paulo state secretary-designate, a sort of prime minister. [Summary] [Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 28 Feb 84 PY]

PINOCHET SPEAKS AT CONSTITUTIONAL CEREMONY

PY111747 [Editorial Report] Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish at 1500 GMT on 11 March carried a live relay of a ceremony held in the plenary room of the Diego Portales Building in Santiago during which President Augusto Pinochet addressed the nation.

The announcer reported the arrival of national and foreign dignitaries, and pointed out that Papal Nuncio Msgr Angelo Sodano and Santiago Archbishop Msgr Juan Francisco Fresno were greeted with warm applause upon arrival. The announcer noted the generals and admirals attending the ceremony, citing the names of Carabineros General Vicente Huerta, Santiago Intendant Brigadier General Roberto Guillard, and Army Deputy Commander Major General Julio Canessa Robert.

After reporting the presence of two intendents of Santiago districts, the comptroller general of the nation, transportation workers leader (Carlos Zicarli), municipal workers association leader (Remigio Solis), and all the ministers of state and their under secretaries, the announcer reported the arrival of Government Junta members Admiral Jose Toribio Merino, Major General Fernando Matthei, Carabineros General Cesar Mendoza, and Lieutenant General Cesar Benavides. Finally, the announcer reported the arrival of President Pinochet, who received a standing ovation. The national anthem was then immediately sung by all attending the ceremony, and President Pinochet began his speech at 1537 GMT.

Text of Speech

PY111726 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1537 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Address to the nation by President General Augusto Pinochet on the third anniversary of the approval of the Constitution from the Diego Portales Building in Santiago -- live]

[Excerpts] Members of the Honorable Government Junta, Your Excellency Msgr Archbishop of Santiago, Your Excellency Apostolic Nuncio Msgr Angelo Sodano, diplomats, ministers of state, comptroller general of the Republic, members of the Council of State, generals and admirals, director general of investigations, subsecretaries of state, civilian, military, and eclesiastic authorities, directors of communications media, ladies and gentlemen:

Today we celebrate the third year of the implementation of the 1980 Constitution, the beginning of the first presidential term under this Constitution. It is impossible to understand the true significance of the 1980 Constitution without bearing in mind that the institutional system established by the 1925 Constitution had first been distorted by the abuses practiced by the political parties, and then totally destroyed by the governing Marxist groups. This situation made it imperative for the country to set up a new institutional system. Therefore, the constitutional alternative proposed in 1980 represented the fulfillment of the promise made by the Armed Forces and the forces of order. So we now have a constitutional system which incorporates the changes that have occurred in contemporary times, and which, at the same time, contains provisions necessary for the functioning of a solid and stable democracy.

Thus, it was demonstrated that the mission we undertook on 11 September 1973 was not restricted to the administration of the state, but included a concern for the future by creating the conditions to safely lead the country to complete institutional normalization. Approving the new Constitution through a free and secret plebiscite, the sovereign will of the people gave Chile a definite constitutional system. The recognition that the law is the only basis to promote social and political reforms reasserted once more impersonal and objective norms that, being Chilean, interpret the national reality and are equally binding on the governors and the governed.

At the same time, in the political area the country clearly opted for democracy as a way of life and government, with the necessary authority to enforce the rights of everyone through an independent judicial branch endowed with power to enforce its resolutions.

The 1980 Constitution defined terrorism as being essentially opposed to human rights, and it provided for the enactment of special legislation to deal with it. It also declared that those who propose violence or a totalitarian form of state, society, and juridical order based on the class struggle are enemies of order.

The Constitution also made basic definitions in the area of the economy, attaching appropriate importance to private enterprise. This, however, should not be construed as a constitutional commitment to any given economic policy, but only as an indispensable recognition of essential rights that cannot be disregarded.

I will now refer to the temporary provisions of the Constitution intended to gradually establish the definitive institutional system, without disturbances which might affect the effectiveness and stability of the system being instituted. Any juridical plan, and more so one intended to create the basis for the functioning of a true democracy, presupposes a gradual transition until it is completely implemented. It requires exceptional rules and special powers in order to resolve situations that, since the definitive institutional system is not yet consolidated, can seriously affect it, and worse, cut short its objectives. The abuses committed by those who object to the temporary provisions fully justify the existence of these provisions.

In accordance with the Constitution, the government has made progress with the institutionalization process but, unfortunately, some well-identified groups, rather than joining in this task which is the responsibility of all, have opted for the comfortable position of criticizing all that is done, and even of magnifying minor faults. Likewise, those who are at the service of foreign interests or linked to international political organizations trying to interfere in the internal affairs of Chile are intent on blocking the path toward institutionalization, disregarding our sovereignty and dignity as an independent nation. I want to report to my fellow countrymen that an international network exists for the purpose of financing some political sectors through organizations which provide a facade, thus compromising the moral authority of those sectors to participate in our public affairs.

We will never allow anyone to try to restrain our freedom of action as a free and sovereign state. [applause] Acting in this way, the president and the government have confidence in interpreting the sentiments of the majority of the citizenry who, beyond their political preferences, are imbued with a patriotic and constructive spirit and have the inborn wisdom to distinguish truth from demagogy, Chilean from foreign interests.

Fellow countrymen, our country has successfully met tremendous challenges to its economy, and it can now view its economic prospects with more tranquillity. The international crisis of 1981 was particularly severe for Latin America, especially for Chile, because of the slump in the prices of copper and other export products. However, in the middle of this general recession, and faced with challenges that are more serious than those that affect other countries of the region, Chile has attained higher growth indexes and lower inflation rates. Most important of all, Chile has already begun its recovery while the majority of the nations of the continent have not yet been able to cope with recession.

A year ago, as deposits were being withdrawn from the financial system, uncertainty led many persons to buy foreign currency at speculative prices on the black market. Today, as time deposits increase, we see that the distortion of the exchange market has ended and that the availability of credits has expanded, reflecting confidence in the future of the nation.

Twelve months ago, a feeling of uncertainty prevailed in connection with our foreign accounts (?because of) the difficulties involved in the fulfilment of the agreement reached with the IMF, which resulted in difficulties for arranging easier terms for repaying the foreign debt or for obtaining new credits for our recovery. Today, we can not only say that our international obligations have been met but that the negotiations to obtain foreign financial resources for 1984 are at an advanced stage, and with conditions that are more favorable than last year.

However, among all the problems that the government has had to confront, none has been as serious as unemployment, which has been a constant concern. In March 1983, the unemployment rate was 20 percent. Today, it is below 15 percent. The government will continue to make every effort to fight unemployment, creating new jobs in keeping with its resources.

I can also announce the implementation of a savings system that will allow the construction of 12,000 houses for the middle class. This system, whose initial saving stage [ahorro previo] will begin on 1 April 1984, will help those who make an actual effort to buy their own house. A subsidy will also be granted and the obtaining of financial resources from the banking system will be facilitated.

In the energy sector, the Colbun-Machicura project, the country's largest hydroelectric plant, will be completed at the beginning of 1985. The cost of this project surpasses $1 billion. Meanwhile, studies for the construction of new plants are underway. We will continue encouraging the replacement of oil with coal which foresees private investment.

I must also point out that there are supplementary measures included in draft laws now under study. The first one provides for a definitive solution to the problem of debts arising from reform. This will bring peace and stability to a large sector of the peasant population. The second provides for the progressive adjustment of the valuation of agricultural land within a reasonable period, until they match their actual level.

In the mining sector, agreements will be signed in coming months, for the sale of natural gas by ENAP [National Petroleum Enterprise] to investment enterprises which will set up a plant to manufacture methanol and another to produce fertilizers. This will represent private investments totalling $900 million. Because of the request of U.S. copper-producing companies to restrict imports of this metal to the United States, the government stated its opinion that the adoption of protectionist measures such as the one requested by those U.S. companies would violate the principles of free international trade and free access of primary products to markets. The government has undertaken actions to prevent the implementation of this measure. To this end, we have initiated all appropriate legal and diplomatic actions.

In the labor sector, the government, on the basis of experience with existing legislation and after a careful study, has decided to dictate several decrees aiming at improving such legislation and reaffirming principles of social policy which are recognized in the Constitution. Reforms concerning labor contracts respond to requests made by union leaders to eliminate clauses in work contracts that were used to avoid payment of indemnification established by laws. It was deemed reasonable to institute mandatory indemnification in all cases in which work contracts are terminated for reasons that are not attributable to the workers. As for the training of workers, the reforms foresee measures to expand the action to the small- and medium-sized enterprises, as well as to rural sectors.

Another government concern is to facilitate the creation of labor organizations by introducing necessary reforms to eliminate the difficulties that have been observed in their operation and to allow them to fulfill their social objectives. Special importance is attached to the workers' direct participation in the most important agreements, in the development of their activities, and in the decisionmaking process of their leaders in unions, federations, and confederations, so that they will have the backing of the rank and file and will not be used for partisan political interests. Studies have also been commissioned regarding reforms in collective bargaining, taking into account suggestions and observations made by labor organizations regarding salaries and working conditions. Along the same lines, the government deems it necessary to establish special labor courts at the lower level to operate under simple and expeditious proceedings to facilitate the administration of justice for the protection of the rights granted by the labor laws. All the initiatives mentioned in this area will be implemented through decrees that will be submitted for the approval of the Government Junta.

The study of a law to end the abuses affecting Chilean artists and authors will be expedited to allow them to fully benefit from their work and creative capacity.

Fellow citizens, the country has learned with profound indignation about the crimes committed by a group of terrorists who seek subversive objectives, causing alarm and fear among the citizens, murdering innocent victims, and destroying public and private properties. Terrorism represents a great and serious threat to society. Its connections with political and other sectors, both domestic and international, make it an instrument of Soviet communism and a threat to the very basis of society. Thus the government has been and will be inflexible in repressing terrorism. With this purpose in mind, I have submitted a bill to the Honorable Government Junta establishing punishments for terrorist crimes. This clear and resolute position is the only alternative in keeping with our task: to watch over the tranquillity and security of the people. [applause]

I also want to refer to the concern of the government and of public opinion about the violent entry of four armed terrorists into the Apostolic Nunciature. Notwithstanding the seriousness of the crimes with which these terrorists are charged, and moved by the profound affection and recognition of His Holiness Pope John Paul II, the Chilean Government has decided to study the request for safe-conducts. This situation demands thorough analysis, taking into account the juridical, political, and diplomatic aspects which must be solved.

Chileans, on this new anniversary of the implementation of our current Constitution, I want to repeat again the government's indomitable will to continue advancing toward the definitive institutional system of the republic the country sovereignty approved in 1980.

With this purpose in mind, in September 1983 I submitted to the Council of State the study of the legal framework within which national political life would be developed, thus laying the groundwork for the constitutional laws. On that occasion, I told the Council to request the opinion of all citizens, and also the valuable contribution of the different regions through their outstanding representatives, and of those persons who have long experience in national political life.

This significant decision was not well received by some political sectors interested in returning to the past or in creating chaos. For this reason, instead of contributing with ideas, they dismissed these studies and questioned the validity of this procedure in advance.

The government intends to continue with this fundamental task with the participation of all Chileans, convinced that this is the best way to respond to the irresponsible campaign, the same campaign which in 1970 installed a minority Marxist group in the Chilean Government. [applause]

I have submitted a proposal for amending the Constitution to the Government Junta. Once approved by plebiscite, this amendment will empower the president of the Republic to summon the people and ask them for their opinion or decision on major national issues. Thus, under clearly democratic conditions, Chileans will be able to give their opinion and directly contribute to the strengthening of the institutionalization process [words indistinct] an active sector that will preserve national values and that will be capable of leading Chile along a course of order, freedom, and prosperity. [applause]

Reiterating my objective of having the constitutional organic laws on political activities approved as soon as possible, I want to point out that the draft bills on political parties and the Supervisory Electoral Court might be submitted to the Government Junta in the first half of 1984, so that such electoral matters may be analyzed (?by) the national congress [as heard] this year.

The objective of the constitutional amendment that I have proposed is to directly obtain the opinion or decision of the people on major issues that may appear controversial in the text of the so-called political laws. We will thus once again show that our political system is not formulated behind the people's back. [applause]

Fellow citizens, faithful to our tradition and aware of the fact that our current position will yield its fruits to our children, we Chileans want to continue advancing and will stop any intention of those who want to drag the country into chaos and anarchy. We have sovereignly chosen our path and that of the fundamental institutions of the Republic. In the face of domestic and foreign threats to the freedom of all Chileans and to their right to make their own decisions, the people can rest assured that the government has the means and the will to defend the major interests of the fatherland. [applause]

In conclusion, I ask Almighty God to grant us His protection to achieve these objectives outlined by the people, to let us walk the path which leads to the greatness of the nation. Long live Chile!

UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCES END OF DEL VALLE TERM

PY092100 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1615 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] The office of the Dean of the Catholic University of Chile today reported that the term of Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle as associate dean has expired in keeping with the statutes of the university. The university issued the following communique:

1. According to Decree 1-81 issued by the University, the 3-year term of Professor Jaime del Valle as associate dean expired on 1 March.

2. The office of the dean has made no decision on the designation of a new associate dean.

DEL VALLE ON SAFE-CONDUCTS, UNIVERSITY ACTION

PY092105 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1615 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Speaking about the granting of safe-conducts, Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle has said that he never talked about deadlines with the holy father, and that relations with the nunciature are very good. Del Valle denied reports that he personally promised the pope to deliver the safe-conducts within a specific period. He explained that his talks with the pope and with Cardinal Agustino Casaroli, the secretary of state, were of a private nature and that they did not talk about deadlines.

The minister also explained that his term as associate dean of the Catholic University has expired in keeping with an agreement that established that the term would last 3 years. This term, he noted, expired on 1 March 1984. He explained that he was absent from his post for a long time and that he understands that some sectors may regard the end of his term as a sanction.

POWER FACILITIES ATTACKED IN CONCEPCION

PY091901 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] There have been four attacks against power facilities in Concepcion. Vandals threw chains over the powerlines to cause short-circuits. The areas mostly affected by these terrorist actions were shanty towns in Concepcion, capital of the 8th Region, and in Talcahuano.

All this is part of the opposition program to create the conditions for political violence in that area.

NATION CALM AS MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS HELD

PA111448 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1113 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Bogota, 11 Mar (EFE) -- Today at 1300 GMT Colombians being casting their votes in the general elections to renew departmental assemblies, municipal councils, and intendancy councils. The elections, which were opened with a bugle call and public statements in all towns throughout the country, will end at about 2100 GMT. The official vote count will then begin immediately.

The [figure indistinct] electorate will elect 421 deputies to the departmental assemblies (provincial), [figure indistinct] municipal councilmen, 33 intendancy counselors, and 20 sheriff's counselors. President Belisario Betancur has announced that he, his wife Rosa Helena Alvarez, and several of his cabinet members will cast their votes early at ballot box 1 in Bogota, located at the national capitol.

Military and police authorities report that there is total calm throughout the nation.

Election Vehicles Attacked

PA111921 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1730 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Medellin -- Two vehicles were burned and three others painted with guerrilla slogans during an incursion by the EPL [Popular Liberation Army] in Frontino, west of Medellin. According to official reports, two vehicles carrying electoral officials and civil registry equipment were intercepted in La Isla, located between the municipalities of Nutibara and Frontino, by a guerrilla group composed of 30 armed men who said they were members of the outlawed EPL. After forcing the electoral officials out of the vehicles, they then burned the two vehicles carrying civil registry equipment and painted three others with EPL slogans.

Balboa Suspends Voting

PA112003 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1730 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Justice Minister Rodrigo Lara Bonilla will file a complaint against the National Latin Movement [Movimiento Latino Nacional], led by well-known drug trafficker (Carlos Leder) in Quindio Department, because the movement is involved in the selling and buying of votes.

With the exception of reports about incidents in the town of Balboa, Choco Department, Government Minister Alfonso Gomez Gomez' most recent report indicates that the situation in the country remains calm.

[Begin Gomez recording] I am pleased to report that based on the information we have received from the offices of the governors, presidential delegates, and military and police commands, the voting can undoubtedly be described as normal. There was an incident in Balboa, Choco Department, where voting was hindered because the Conservative Party office was attacked and ballots were burned. As a result, the governor's office has been authorized to suspend the elections, since the law provides for this. Thus, an act of violence has made voting impossible in that political sector. [end recording]

Voting Ends

PA112146 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2115 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Bogota, 11 Mar (EFE) -- The Colombian municipal elections ended peacefully at 2100 GMT today after 8 hours of voting. The elections served to elect department assemblies, administrators, commissioners, and municipal councils.

Millions of people went to the polls throughout the country to vote for the various political parties and groups that have aspired to be represented in public offices. The Government Ministry reported that the elections passed in complete calm and that only a few isolated incidents disturbed peace. Now that the polls are closed, the preliminary vote counting will begin immediately. The official vote counting will begin on Wednesday, 14 March.

ATTORNEY GENERAL ADMONISHES JUSTICE MINISTER

PA091644 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Bogota -- Justice Minister Rodrigo Lara Bonilla has objected to 6th Penal Judge Julian Rojas Otalora -- to whom he made a deposition yesterday in connection with his alleged breach of trust -- because he feels that the judge is not empowered to investigate a minister of state, a function which constitutionally belongs to the congress.

For his party, Attorney General Carlos Jimenez Gomez has urged the justice minister to reverse his position, which has been marked by criticism of the penal judge who had summoned him for an inquest. The minister, meanwhile, has admitted that he exceeded himself in making public charges against the judge. The two officials exchanged notes prior to the minister's presentation before the judge yesterday. In the notes they defined their respective positions. In his note to the minister, the attorney general told the minister: Concerning the contents of your memo, I must say that I find your formulation of concepts and (?your use) of terms intended to disqualify the performance of the judge in question contrary to the legal order and profoundly inadvisable for the normal development of our institutions. I would also assert this if you were a common citizen, but even more so in the case [word indistinct] justice minister, whom the Constitution obliges to respect the principle of the division of the branches and functions of public power.

In his note answering the attorney general, the minister stated: Both as a citizen and as a minister, I feel that it is my duty to accept your admonition and to admit not only before the attorney general but before my country that I may have incurred some excess, explainable on the basis of which I have decided to confront, with determination and without fear, the struggle against organized crime, and of the results I have obtained so far, which do not correspond to the magnitude of the effort made.

NAPO STRIKE SITUATION BECOMES MORE CRITICAL

PA112350 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Bulletin issued by the Napo Province Strike Committee on 11 March]

[Text] Despite dispatches released last night announcing that the Napo Province strike would be over in the next few hours, the situation has, in fact, become more critical. The communities of (Francisco de Orellana), (Los Hachas), and Shushufindi have blocked access to the oil fields. Citizens in the communities of Tena, Misahualli, Puerto Napo, Archidona, Cotundo, Baeza, (Juyuja), Borja, Pano, and Papallacta have seized control of the access road to Lago Agrio, while Apangora, Santa Rosa, and El Capricho residents have taken over the (Pollo-Laco) Road. Residents of Zucumbios and Aguarico, the most remote cantons of the province, have suspended all work.

This morning, the government delivered a written reply to the strikers' demands through the provincial councils' association and the association of municipalities of the Amazon region. The government response will be discussed by the strike committee once it is received in Tena, and answered accordingly.

Thus, we deny the official dispatches carried by several information media claiming that contacts had been made with the strike committee, that the demands had already been discussed, and that a government delegation had traveled to the city of Baeza to start negotiations. All this is absolutely false.

However, the position adopted by the Napo citizens will be firmly maintained until we are guaranteed that our basic demands will be met.

Yesterday, a general assembly at Quijos canton underlined the importance of the strike and the commitment to maintaining the present position. Meanwhile, at 1100 today in Tena, there was a massive demonstration in front of the Municipal Palace, where the government minister was accused of being against the Amazon region. The demonstrators repudiated his statements and those of the deputy government minister, who replied with insults to the demands of our province.

In addition, the following telegram was sent to Napo representative Captain Nelson Felix Navarrete: By a unanimous resolution at the general assembly held in Tena today, we inform you that in view of your indifference to the courageous attitude of the people of Napo, you have been declared a traitor to the interests of our province.

[Signed] Gustavo Ruiz Teran, Napo prefect and president of the strike committee

Carlos Davila Solano, councilman and secretary of the strike committee

MOPOCO LEADER ON CHANGES, DEMOCRATIC FORUM

PA091928 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 28 Feb 84 p A-8

[Report on an interview granted by Sandino Gil Oporto, secretary of international relations of the Colorado Popular Movement, MOPOCO, to Carlos Silva Valero; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] General Alfredo Stroessner's tyranny is decaying because the continent's conscience is awakening and the dictator himself is becoming decrepit, according to Sandino Gil Oporto, MOPOCO secretary of international relations. MOPOCO is one of the opposition political organizations that comprise the National Pact in Paraguay.

In an exclusive interview with EL NACIONAL, Gil Oporto said that the democratization process in Argentina after more than 7 years of military dictatorship and the democratic reaffirmation in Venezuela, where a change in command recently took place, are external factors encouraging change in Paraguay. He added that one must also consider internal factors, such as the return of Paraguayan exiles for the first time in 25 years and the holding of the first political activities.

The Paraguayan Case

Gil Oporto leaves Tuesday for Geneva, where the UN Human Rights Commission will begin a study of Paraguay on 5 March. A report by this organization has denounced abuses committed during the state of siege in Paraguay. According to Gil Oporto, in Geneva he will charge that all of Paraguay is a jail. He also announced that he will demand the abolition of the antisubversive laws Stroessner uses to detain peaceful dissidents, the return of the exiles (some 1.5 million in all), and the lifting of the state of siege.

Democratic Forum

Gil Oporto, who has lived in exile for 25 of his almost 50 years, says that it is not a matter of saying how long it will take for Stroessner's dictatorship, "already quite wasted and discredited," to fall. The idea is to work in solidarity for the democratic cause in Paraguay.

He announced that the constituent meeting of the "Forum of Southern Cone Democratic Parties" will be held in Asuncion in the first week of April. According to him, the following groups have confirmed that they will attend: the Radical Civic Union, Argentine President Raul Alfonsin's party; the Brazilian Democratic Movement Party (PMDB); Socialist Leonel Brizzola's Brazilian Labor Party (PTB); Uruguay's Blanco and Colorado Parties; Chile's Christian Democratic and Radical Parties; and, naturally, Paraguay's National Pact.

The Paraguayan National Pact includes the Christian Democratic Party, the Authentic Radical Liberal Party, the Febrerista Revolutionary Party, and MOPOCO.

The Bases

Gil Oporto revealed the bases for the creation of the Forum of Southern Cone Democratic Parties, as established in a document released by the exiled MOPOCO government junta:

.. Establishing a formal commitment among the political parties to defend democracy as a system of government.

2. Establishing a commitment among the political parties to support the process of democratization in the Southern Cone and to actively oppose the dictatorial governments that violate democratic principles and human rights.

3. Sponsoring the adoption of strict rules of conduct by governments and political parties in order to morally and politically condemn those situations which either harm or violate democratic principles and practices.

4. Sponsoring at the international organizations (UN, OAS, etc), effective measures for condemning the overthrow of democratically elected governments, the interruption of the democratization processes, and the violation of human rights.

5. Laying the groundwork for cooperation which, going beyond the political arena, may help strengthen democratic governments vis-a-vis critical economic and social situations.

6. Establishing the mechanisms for achieving a permanent relationship among the leaders of political parties through periodic meetings, training courses (especially at the level of middle ranking and youth leaders), technical aid, and the printing of publications that disseminate the objectives and accomplishments of the Forum.

7. Creating an economic fund to pay for the expenses incurred in achieving the goals of this group.

Gen Stroessner's throne has begun to creak.

MOPOCO SECRETARY, MEMBER RETURN 7 MARCH

PY081436 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 8 Mar 84 p 13

[Excerpt] After an absence of nearly 25 years, MOPOCO Secretary Candido A. Ortiz Alcaraz and MOPOCO member Bienvenido Ortega returned to the country yesterday. Upon arrival from Argentina, Ortiz stated that he calls on all the Colorados who adhere to the party's democratic principles and all "the citizenry to travel together down the difficult road leading to the country's effective democratization, so that there will not be another massive exodus like the one we lived through."

FEBRERISTA PRESIDENT RETURNS FROM EUROPE

PY091420 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 9 Mar 84 p 13

[Excerpt] The president of the Febrerista Revolutionary Party, Euclides Acevedo, has returned to Paraguay. Commenting on his activities in several European countries, he emphasized that the European media attached great relevance to his tour. He also stated that "the newsmen not only asked questions but they also committed themselves to disseminate everything that is related to Paraguay to break the conspiracy of silence against our country."

BRIEFS

MONETARY ISSUANCE UPSURGE -- In 1983 the monetary issuance grew by 24.66 percent, totaling 105,504,000,000 guaranies in late December 1983, according to official data furnished by the Central Bank. [Excerpt] [Asuncion HOY in Spanish 26 Feb 84 p 9 PY]

NEW MILITARY COURT AUTHORITIES -- During a ceremony held yesterday morning at the National Defense Ministry, Colonel Carlos Sosa Quevedo and Captain Carlos Da Silva were installed as general attorney and interim secretary, respectively, of the Supreme Military Justice Court. [Excerpt] [Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 7 Mar 84 p 10 PY]

SCHWALB DENIES ANY INCIDENT AT HAVANA EMBASSY

PY100130 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2326 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Lima, 9 Mar (EFE) -- Peruvian Foreign Minister Fernando Schwalb, who is also the prime minister of the country, today stated that there has been no incident at the Peruvian Embassy in Havana, where 15 Cuban refugees have been staying since 1980 hoping to be able to leave the country. Schwalb noted that the Cuban police have not entered the Peruvian Embassy in recent days and that the latest reports on the subject "could be related to events that took place in January." Schwalb added that at that time two refugees "who needed medical attention" were taken by ambulance to a hospital and later brought back to the Peruvian Embassy in keeping with "a prior arrangement" with the Cuban authorities.

APRA LEADER RULES OUT POSSIBILITY OF COUP

PY101428 Lima Cadena America Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Alan Garcia Perez, secretary general of the American Revolutionary Popular Alliance [APRA], has stated that relations are good between APRA and the Armed Forces, ruling out any possibility of a coup d'etat. He also said that APRA supports the national strike called by the central labor organizations for 22 March.

[Begin recording] [Garcia] We are very far from a coup d'etat. I firmly believe in the value of the institutional and professional work of the Armed Forces. A few days ago, I participated in a tour of a multiparty commission accompanied by high-ranking officers. We visited border posts and garrisons. I am convinced that the Armed Forces understand that democracy is the best and only way to consolidate Peruvian development and to have justice.

[Unidentified reporter] Has APRA initiated a rapprochement with the Armed Forces?

[Garcia] There has never been any rift between us and the Armed Forces. [end recording]

GOVERNMENT TAKES MEASURES TO COUNTER STRIKE

PY101812 Lima Cadena America Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Text] Labor Minister Joaquin Leguia has announced measures to counteract the central labor organizations stoppage that has been set for 22 March. He said that transport will be provided and that there will be no strict control of the time of arrival of the workers at their work places.

[Begin Leguia recording] A simple perusal of the platform of struggle, which intends to paralyze the country on 22 March, shows that the program is of a strictly political nature. It is not a labor measure at all, because the existing conflicts do not justify a general paralyzation.

The Labor Ministry, together with the Interior Ministry and the Transport Ministry, will take a number of measures to allow the workers who do not wish to follow the stoppage to reach their work places without undue delay [words indistinct]. [end recording]

ALVA ORLANDINI ISSUES MINISTER ULTIMATUM

PY102250 Paris AFP in Spanish 1839 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] Lima, 10 Mar (AFP) -- Javier Alva Orlandini, secretary general of the ruling Peruvian Popular Action Party, last night gave Economy and Finance Minister Carlos Rodriguez Pastor an ultimatum to change his policy.

At a meeting held at the Popular Action headquarters in Lima, Alva Orlandini, who is also a senator and second vice president of the nation, gave Rodriguez Pastor 1 month to change his policy, which he termed neoliberal and monetarist.

Alva Orlandini, who last year managed to restrain monthly increases in fuel prices, added that if his instructions were not followed, there would be a change of economy and finance minister in April by a decision of the rank and file and the Popular Action congressmen, who have an absolute majority in the Chamber of Deputies. He added that the Popular Action congressmen can withdraw their confidence from any minister (the cabinet is made up of members of the ruling party and two members of the Popular Christian Party) according to an agreement reached at the plenum of the party, which he controls.

Alva Orlandini, who is believed to have aspirations of becoming the Popular Action presidential candidate in the elections slated for next year, this morning explained that an economic policy that impoverishes the people to satisfy foreign creditors violates the Constitution, according to which the well-being of the human being is the supreme objective of the state and society.

ULLOA NOMINATED AP PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

PY091300 Lima Cadena Panamericana Television in Spanish 0115 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Interview with Senator Manuel Ulloa at Popular Action Party [AP] headquarters in Lima by (Jaime Peidi) on 26 February -- live]

[Excerpts] [(Peidi)] This is Senator Manuel Ulloa, who has just been nominated the presidential candidate of the AP. He will answer questions for the viewers of the program "Panorama." Good evening, Senator. What do you think of this warm demonstration by your followers?

[Ulloa] Good evening, (Jaime). My feelings are of humility and responsibility, humility because I know there are many party members who can also be entrusted with the mission that I have been given, and responsibility because I realize that the duty of a public servant, particularly in the political process that will begin next year, will have considerable importance for the future of the nation.

[(Peidi)] Senator, even though Javier Alva Orlandini has not officially announced his candidacy during this AP primary election, do you insist in your request that he relinquish his privileges as secretary general, that is, that he ask for a leave of absence?

[Ulloa] I believe he should do that. Otherwise, he should categorically and publicly state to the party and the country that he will not be a presidential candidate, because despite Alva Orlandini's statements, the truth is that an organization has been set up, that there is an office in operation, that lists are circulating, that for many months messages have been sent to several places through distinguished party members to prepare a campaign for Orlandini's candidacy. I believe this [words indistinct], this ambiguity, this confusion, has posed problems, because party members did not imagine that the party secretary general could be using his post to promote his candidacy. I believe the sooner this situation is clarified the better.

PRT ADAMANT ABOUT NOT JOINING UNITED LEFT

PY101525 Lima Cadena America Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Excerpts] The Revolutionary Workers Party, PRT, and its leader, the controversial Hugo Blanco, will never join the United Left. This statement was made today by PRT President Alfonso Barrantes Lingan. He also said that the United Left [as heard] has not yet nominated any candidates for the general elections. This is what he said:

[Begin Barrantes recording] We are in no hurry. The PRT will have a meeting in which we will approve the norms and procedures for electing candidates. We are in no hurry, at least not I, for I have no electoral ambitions. And I can officially confirm that the PRT has not joined the United Left, and it will not join the United Left in the future. The party will have to choose between Mr Blanco and me, and if it prefers Mr Blanco, I will continue as mayor [of Lima] until the end of my term. [end recording]

SHINING PATH ATTACKS POLICE STATION; 9 DEAD

PY091900 Paris AFP in Spanish 1513 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Lima, 9 Mar (AFP) -- Reliable police sources today reported that nine terrorists, inlcuding three women, of the Peruvian Shining Path extremist group died yesterday when 30 subversives attacked the police station of Paraz, Huamanga Province, Ayacucho Department. According to information yet to be officially confirmed, the attackers, wearing hoods and armed with explosives and submachine guns, attacked the police station early yesterday morning to seize arms and ammunition, but the police forces repulsed the attack, inflicting the mentioned casualties.

PRESIDENT TO SEEK COOPERATION DURING L.A. TRIP

FL092020 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1620 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Mexico City, 8 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Leopoldo Zea, Latin American affairs expert, has stated that with President Miguel de la Madrid's trip through South America, Mexico will again take up the banner of integration and cooperation among the peoples of the area.

Zea, director of the Center for the Coordination and Advancement of Latin American Studies [Centro Coordinador y Difusor de Estudios Latinoamericanos], said that during the trip De la Madrid will not limit himself only to stressing support for the Contadora Group but will also be seeking to unify viewpoints on developing integration among Latin American countries.

Zea indicated that the solidarity among the peoples of Latin America had been affected by interference from the United States, but that now it is possible to achieve this integration. He added that the significance of the Mexican president's trip to South America is not only his presence there as a person, but also as a representative of the people's marked solidarity.

Edmundo Hernandez Vela, head of the faculty of the School of Political and Social Science of the National Autonomous University of Mexico [UNAM], said De la Madrid's trip to Venezuela, Colombia, Argentina, and Brazil in late March is taking place at an excellent time for implementing a common policy throughout Latin America. Hernandez Vela added that the pressure the United States exerts over the payment of foreign debts is proof of the control it wishes to continue to exercise over the continent.

CUBA RATIFIES MULTILATERAL CUSTOMS AGREEMENT

FL091710 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0109 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] The Secretariat of Finance and Public Credit (SHCP) today announced that the Republic of Cuba has ratified the multilateral agreement on mutual cooperation and assistance signed by the national customs services of various nations. The goal of the agreement is to provide for cooperation in the modernization of the national customs services, the harmonization and simplification of procedures and foreign trade operations, and the prevention, investigation, and sanctioning of customs infractions. The agreement had previously been ratified by Argentina, Costa Rica, Chile, Spain, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Mexico.

The Cuban charge d'affaires [as received] in Mexico, Fayad Jamis Bernal, deposited the instrument of ratification with Director General of Customs Javier Darduno Perez, who is the secretary for the agreement. It was stressed that Mexico is working with all of the Latin American countries, Spain, and Portugal to establish norms and common practices regarding the transit of goods, the application of modern mechanized systems for data handling, the computerization of customs law, and the training of national customs service personnel.

ARNULFO ARIAS RETURNS, COMMENTS ON CANDIDACY

PA110411 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1700 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] We ask the government to invite international organizations and observers of recognized moral and political prestige to witness the 6 May elections, Arnulfo Arias Madrid stated in a communique last night upon his arrival in Panama from a visit to Miami that lasted several days.

The leader of the Authentic Panamenist Party and presidential candidate of the Democratic Opposition Union arrived last evening with his wife Mireya Moscos de Arias and Carlos Rodriguez, candidate for the first vice presidency of the Republic. Dr Arias was greeted at the Omar Torrijos International Airport by supporters of the opposition alliance, including Ricardo Arias Calderon, president of the Christian Democratic Party and candidate for the second vice presidency.

The three-time president, who has also been toppled three times, granted the following statement to the press:

[Begin recording] [Arias] One cannot be sure of anything. Anyone can tell you that. You can get killed. Or we can lose because they cheat. [laughter]

[Unidentified reporter] Dr Arias, what is your platform on the various problems that Panama is experiencing?

[Arias] It will be difficult, but I am confident, absolutely, extremely optimistic that everything will go well because we have international help.

[Reporter] Dr Arias, what would be the first problem you would tackle?

[Arias] The people's hunger.

[Reporter] How do you plan to fight hunger if we are currently facing an economic crisis?

[Arias] Well, we will see where we can get money to alleviate that situation.

[Reporter] Dr Arias, you seem to be in perfect health. Can your trip to the United States be interpreted as a trip in search of political support?

[Arias] It had nothing to do with politics. I did make statements because the press is always after me. [laughter] I went to have my eyeglasses changed. That is all.

[Reporter] How do you view the suspicion of the National Defense Forces at a time when other sectors see a high level of professionalism within the armed forces?

[Arias] The suspicion is there because they are not yet sufficiently professional. Law 20 must be modified, and a civilian police force must be created. Then the military must be separated from the civilian police.

[Reporter] Could you tell us what role women will play in your administration?

[Arias] The same role that women have played in my administrations: They will be greatly respected, they will receive all the guarantees that they are entitled to. I gave women the right to vote and I appointed the first woman cabinet member in Panama's history.

[Reporter] How do you view the current Illueca administration?

[Arias] As insipid.

[Reporter] What segment of the population can guarantee a victory for you in the upcoming elections?

[Arias] If my votes are counted I will win.

[Reporter] You stress the fact that if your votes are counted you will win. Are you saying that the Electoral Tribunal is not handling the current electoral process honestly?

[Arias] I am not only referring to the Electoral Tribunal.

[Reporter] Who specifically are you referring to?

[Arias] I am referring to other forces of which you are well aware.

[Reporter] What is your opinion of the UNADE [National Democratic Union]?

[Arias] What?

[Reporter] The union of the PRD [Revolutionary Democratic Party], PALA [Labor Party], and others?

[Arias] They have their rights. We live in a free country. It should be free. [Words indistinct] free, and still aspire to the Presidency. What difference does it make? There are seven candidates. There should be 20. [end recording]

Requests Election Observers

PA101804 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 10 Mar 84 pp 1, B-12

[Excerpts] Dr Arnulfo Arias Madrid, leader of the Authentic Panamenist Party, returned to Panama last night advocating that the government "invite international observers and organizations of known moral and political rectitude to witness the elections...."

The communique that Dr Arias Madrid released to the news media on his arrival yesterday from Miami states the following:

The Democratic Opposition Alliance, to which the Authentic Panamenist Party belongs, in necessary defense of the Panamanian people's freedom, demands that this government invite international observers and organizations of known moral and political rectitude to witness the 6 May elections. Just as there will be observers from international organizations of the elections to be held in El Salvador, so, too, should there be in Panama, because this is what the Panamanian people demand. This is a way to ensure that these elections will strengthen the concept of national sovereignty by respecting the people's sovereign freedom, which the current government has repeatedly said it will respect.

Arnulfo Arias

ARDITO BARLETTA ON U.S. RELATIONS, C.A.

PA092310 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 9 Mar 84 p 11-A

[Interview granted by Nicolas Ardito Barletta, National Democratic Union, UNADE, presidential candidate, to Migdalia Fuentes; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Fuentes] Should you become president, what role will the military play in your administration?

[Ardito Barletta] I think that most Panamanians appreciate the Defense Forces' determined participation to achieve stability during the signing of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties. It was a special moment for the United States and Panama, which cannot be forgotten while striving for our sovereignty and territorial integration.

Most Panamanians also applaud the Defense Forces' firm determination to promote and sponsor the country's full democratization and the strengthening of the civilian institutions. For these reasons, I believe that the circumstances are favorable for a complementary role between civilian and military institutions.

I think it was agreed that the government's civilian institutions would be strengthened -- the institutions that participate in the interplay characterizing the democratic process -- while the Defense Forces' participation in the government functions would be gradually reduced.

I believe that the country needs very professional Defense Forces, which are well organized and aware of the need for national security and independence. The country also needs a strong and effective civilian government, capable of freely resolving national problems as part of the democratic interplay, with the participation of all the national sectors, duly organized in accordance with the Constitution and national laws.

I therefore believe that in order to preserve the country's peace, foment development, achieve a stable democracy, and strengthen the democratic institutions, as all Panamanians desire the functions of the civilian government and the Defense Forces must suitably complement each other.

[Fuentes] How do you, a man educated in the United States, and who lived there for several years, view the relations between Washington and Panama?

[Ardito Barletta] Due to the operation of the canal, Panama maintains a special relationship with the United States, which is defined by the Torrijos-Carter Treaties. We must handle that relationship with great national dignity, propriety, and confidence in our independence, which emanates from our firmly rooted mental independence. We must bear in mind that due to our speical relationship with the United States, we have laid the groundwork for constructive cooperation, both for the efficient administration of the canal, with security and neutrality, and for cooperation to foment Panama's overall development.

Naturally, many things, such as our viewpoints and opinions, will differ, so we will have to hold talks, negotiate, and defend our positions. I think that it is our permanent task to persuade the United States that Panama's national interests, overall development, peaceful modernization, and independence coincide with the U.S. interest in maintaining a safe, efficient, open, and neutral operation of the Panama Canal. Only to the extent that we persuade the United States that this is the best path will our bilateral relations be more positive and constructive.

Ardito Barletta on Central America

The situation of several Central American countries is both delicate and tragic. When a country loses track of the paths to peacefully resolve differences between the various sectors of its society, its disintegration as a nation and state begins. When groups of a society try to forcefully impose their viewpoints on the country's majority, the notion of respect for human rights is lost, as is man's freedom, national independence, and the dignity of the people.

For all these reasons, the drama of Central American violence is tragic, and has profound repercussions throughout the area. Panama must view the current developments with concern. It must be sympathetic toward the efforts to return those fraternal peoples to the paths of peace, democracy, the peaceful resolution of their differences, and the return of their national stability.

Through the Contadora Group, Panama has at least been constructively contributing to a continuation of dialogue, negotiation, and the exploration of peaceful paths. I think that Panama can and should continue contributing to this effort alongside other Latin American countries. This must be done through national interest in self-defense. Panama must continue operating so that Central America can find a path for peaceful development.

CTRP ENDORSES ARDITO BARLETTA CANDIDACY

PA111239 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 10 Mar 84 pp 1A, 8A

[Resolutions by the Confederation of Workers of the Republic of Panama, issued in Panama City on 19 February]

[Text] Resolution

The Council of Delegates of the Confederation of Workers of the Republic of Panama [CTRP], the highest authority of the organization during the Congressional recess, meeting in the city of Panama on 19 February 1984, states:

1) The leaders' meeting held in Penonome, Cocle, on 22 January 1984 discussed and analyzed the mandate of the 13th Ordinary Congress of the CTRP, which established its ideology and political participation.

2) The leaders' meeting at Penonome, Cocle, decided that the political participation of the organization should include announced support for candidates for president, legislators, and corregimiento representatives fully identified with the highest aspirations of the workers.

3) The delegates of the Council of Delegates discussed and analyzed the political situation and the programs and platforms of the political parties that will participate in the upcoming elections.

4) The leadership of CTRP has spoken with Dr Nicolas Ardito Barletta, candidate of the National Democratic Union (UNADE).

5) On 17 February we received a letter from Dr Nicolas Ardito Barletta in which he identified himself with the stands of the CTRP leadership.

6) After fully analzying the candidacy of Dr Nicolas Ardito Barletta, this Delegates' Council resolves:

A) To support the candidacy to the Presidency of the Republic of Dr Nicolas Ardito Barletta of UNADE.

B) That this support will be extended to the candidates for legislators, mayors, and corregimiento representatives who identify themselves with the aspirations of the CTRP.

Issued in the city of Panama on 19 February 1984
Ricardo Monterrey C., CTRP Secretary General
Narciso E. Ortega L., Secretary of Minutes and Correspondence

BARRIA CALLS PST OPPOSITION'S STANDARD-BEARER

PA120324 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 11 Mar 84 pp 1, 8-A

[Article by Garritt H. Geneteau D.; uppercase as published]

[Text] Ricardo Barria, presidential candidate of the Workers Socialist Party, PST, told LA REPUBLICA in an interview yesterday: "We, the workers, who have a permanent relationship with the country's working masses, are the standard-bearers of the genuine OPPOSITION to the current regime, because the other political groups that claim to be the opposition have exploited at one time or another the working classes and have promoted public debt."

Ricardo Barria, who is a senior labor leader, said that his WORK PLAN is based on a program of activities to promote public works in order to create jobs that will end the country's critical unemployment problem. The program would also benefit homemakers, peasants, and youths.

The labor leader, who was hailed by the PST as the "Standard-bearer of the extreme left" in the elections slated for Sunday, 6 May, said emphatically that the success of his "work plan" requires the nationalization of the Panama Canal and of local and foreign banks, and the expropriation of multinational consortiums operating in our territory.

Ricardo Barria, who lives in Section Two of the John XXIII neighborhood, Santiago, Veraguas Province, said: "We will continue without faltering our struggle to achieve the demands of the working and neglected classes. We represent the genuine opposition to the current regime, and we do not trust the other so-called opposition." Of the three presidential candidates from leftist parties Barria is described as the one having the most extremist and radical government platform.

LA PRENSA PRAISES PST PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

PA091752 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 5 Mar 84 p 7 A

[Excerpts] The PST [Socialist Workers Party] has released a leaflet expressing the favorable ideas of its presidential candidate, Ricardo Barria. The leaflet states:

For the past 16 years the men in uniform have been ruling by force, to the benefit of those who massacred our people in January 1964 and those with economic power, to the detriment of our sovereign rights and our familial needs. Tbey have increased the poverty of the humble majority and also the wealth of the local tycoons and their bosses in the north.

An 'Opposition' That Never Was In Opposition

In order to remain in power, the military counted on the support of a loyal opposition which, providing "alibis" for the government, never really tried to overthrow it. In fact, it actually offered support at important moments -- for instance, when the military imposed the constitutional amendments in April to provide a disguise for the "real power" of the National Guard. The "opposition's" complicity with the regime has gone so far as refusing to oppose the defense law, which gives the men in uniform the upper hand regardless of who wins the coming elections. This clearly shows the opposition's real intention of participating in the splitting of the cake.

A 'Left' Which Also Does Not Oppose

Our repeated efforts to unite leftist parties have met with the division of the People's Party [PDP] and the Workers' Revolutionary Party [PRT]. Both decided to join Torrijism, which did so much harm to the workers and popular movements, rather than the class unity of the workers.

In the case of the PDP, this is evident in its position of upholding its old alliance with the pro-Yankee regime, which has agreed to maintain the School of the Americas and its participation in the Central American Defense Council (CONDECA) against Nicaragua.

The PRT in turn decided to divide the traditional unity of those like the FER-29 [University Students Front] the PST, and the MLN-29-NOV [not further identified] which have always remained with us in popular and revolutionary opposition to the government. The PRT quit this unity by capitulating to Torrijism.

The candidacy of Ricardo Barria is an alternative to Torrijism, the oligarchy, and imperialism.

The Executive Committee and many members of the PST have proposed the nomination of Companero Ricardo Barria for president of the Republic. Ricardo Barria is a well-known labor leader. He worked with Father Hector Gallegos and has never bowed down to the government, the oligarchy, or the men in uniform. He is a tough anti-imperialist labor leader, a defender of the Central American revolution, and a firm opponent of the government of the military men and their bosses' parties.

GOVERNMENT, CONATO LEADERS DISCUSS LABOR PROBLEMS

PA102140 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 10 Mar 84 pp 28, A-8

[Text] The president of the Republic and leaders of CONATO [National Council of Organized Workers] discussed a number of labor problems during a meeting held between Government and labor leaders. At this meeting, the second to be held in less than 15 days, the president presented his answers to the problems that the workers had previously submitted to him.

The possible creation of a national council of workers that would help find permanent solutions to Panama's labor problems was also discussed inthe meeting.

Other topics discussed were the Workers' Bank Law and the Occupational Hazards Law. The workers said that they were concerned because the laws had not advanced in the National Legislative Council. It was pointed out that these laws are part of the government's commitment to improve socioeconomic conditions.

The meeting took place at the presidential palace. The participants included the ministers and deputy ministers of labor, housing, and presidency; the assistant comptroller general of the Republic; and the director of the Consular and Ships Registry Office [Direccion de Consular y Naves].

Housing Minister Zia Elena Lee reported that the government will instruct the Mortgage Bank to allocate $98C,000 for housing projects for the construction workers. In turn, the president denied that the government is promoting "special laws" that will modify the current labor legislation.

U.S. AID SEEN AS PROMOTING MILITARY COUP

PA120032 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 11 Mar 84 p 1

["As of Today" column]

[Text] The U.S. Government continuously proclaims its support for democracy in Central America, but in practice its actions belie its professed good intentions.

For example, it has been announced that the Kissinger commission recommended granting $30 million in military aid to Panama immediately after the Panamanian military organization deposed President Ricardo de la Espriella without giving any explanation for such a drastic step. The prevailing impression is that the military ousted De la Espriella in a fit of anger. That impression was reinforced by the president's laconic "resignation," which explained nothing.

Perplexed Panamanians are wondering whether the $30 million could be a prize for the ouster and a sign that any other violent interruption of the country's political process will be viewed favorably by the U.S. Government, resulting in a reward of several more millions.

Worse, this new gift comes at a time when it is an open secret that the self-styled Defense Forces are getting ready to stage a new coup d'etat to prevent the 6 May elections from taking place, thus preventing the certain victory of the opposition. Has Washington perhaps given prior approval for the coup? In that case, the exchange of letters between Reagan and Illueca is no more than a farce for the benefit of the gullible congressmen and senators who have to approve the budgetary allocations that will be used to prevent the reestablishment of democracy in our homeland.

BRIEFS

PAPO OFFICIALS -- The People's Action Party, PAPO, yesterday elected Rolando Villalaz as its new secretary general to replace Alvin Weeden, who has resigned. Maximo Pinzon was elected second vice president, while the following officials were confirmed in their positions: Luis Chen Gonzalez, secretary of finance; Jose Luis Moreno, assistant secretary of finance; and Jose Alberto de la Guardia, assistant secretary for youth. [Summary] [Panama City YA in Spanish 10 Feb 84 p 1 PA]

BELIZE

OFFICIALS NOTE REACTION TO PRICE HONDURAS VISIT

FL082340 Bridgetown CANA in English 2224 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Belmopan, Belize, March 8 (CANA) -- Prime Minister George Price's visit to Honduras last week has prompted a sharp reaction from Guatemala, which has a territorial dispute with Belize, government officials here reported today. Guatemala's Foreign Minister Fernando Diaz Duran was today quoted as saying that Guatemala would object to any recognition by Honduras of Belize as an independent state.

Diaz also reportedly said that Guatemala would oppose the former British colony's participation in any American plan for Central America which evolved out of the Kissinger commission's report on Central America. The Commission is said to have proposed 14 million U.S. dollars in economic assistance to Belize. The Guatemalan foreign minister has also been quoted as saying that Belize will not be able to participate in any Central American project for development in which Guatemala will take active part until the territorial dispute is peacefully resolved.

Mr Price's visit was at the invitation of President Roberto Suazo. They discussed closer ties between the two countries and the possibility of bilateral relations which would involve cultural and trade accords. Honduras was also reported to be interested in trading with other Caribbean Community (Caricom) countries.

Guatemala has a long-standing claim to Belize, which Price has rejected. The last round of talks, held in New York City in January 1983, ended in failure.

Mr Price during his visit to Tegucigalpa called on the Honduras' Government to recognize the independence and territorial integrity of Belize. Honduras has laid claim to the Sapodilla Cayes in southern Belize but before leaving Honduras Mr Price is reported as saying that "the Sapodilla Cayes belong to Belize and we are not going to quarrel over that." Mr Price has also said that Belize is not interested in joining the Central American Defence Organisation -- (CONDECA) because Belize has military arrangements with the United Kingdom and the United States.

COSTA RICA

NICARAGUA'S RAMIREZ MAKES STOPOVER IN SAN JOSE

Apologizes for Border Incident

PA101817 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2354 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] San Jose, 9 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Sergio Ramirez, member of the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, and Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto have apologized to Carlos Gutierrez, Costa Rican foreign minister, for the Sandinist attack on 23 February against "Conventillos," near the border. The Sandinist official arrived in San Jose this afternoon for a "lightning" visit, conducted under strict security measures. Newsmen were not allowed into the diplomatic room at the Juan Santamaria International Airport.

D'Escoto told reporters that Nicaragua is under intense pressure provoked by the increasingly warlike situation with Honduras. He did not rule out the possibility of an armed clash between Honduras and Nicaragua if this tense situation continues between the two countries.

Official sources have reported that the meeting between the Nicaraguan mission and Foreign Minister Gutierrez was held at Nicaragua's request. Gutierrez told reporters that Ramirez had told him that the Nicaraguan Government deeply regrets the Conventillos incidents.

Ramirez said that the incidents did not represent the Nicaraguan Government's intentions. He said Nicaragua is very interested "in maintaining good relations with Costa Rica," and that it appreciates the Costa Rican Government's efforts to remain apart from the Nicaraguan conflict.

Ramirez, who is heading a high-level government delegation, left for Madrid, from which he will go to Iran for several days on an official visit.

Meets With Foreign Minister

PA102149 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] Dr Sergio Ramirez Mercado, member of the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, met yesterday with Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez in San Jose. The two leaders reiterated their respective governments' interest in maintaining the bilateral dialogue, according to a Foreign Ministry dispatch. During a brief stopover in the Costa Rican capital, Dr Ramirez told Gutierrez about the Nicaraguan Government's intention of avoiding border incidents. The two voiced their interest in the continuation of bilateral contacts through the mixed committee created for that purpose. The private meeting was held at the Juan Santamaria Airport. It was marked by the spirit of peace promulgated by the Nicaraguan Government, the Foreign Ministry announcement noted.

Blames U.S. for C.A. Problems

PA112226 Managua International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] The intensification of the Central American crisis because of U.S. intervention was the main topic discussed by Dr Sergio Ramirez Mercado, member of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction of Nicaragua, and Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez. Dr Ramirez Mercado met with Gutierrez during a brief stopover in San Jose and reiterated that the terrorist acts from air, land, and sea against Nicaragua are conducted by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, CIA, and Somozist guardsmen. The Nicaraguan revolutionary leader was on his way to Iran, heading a delegation invited by officials of that Middle East country. The group included Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto, and Commander Omar Cabezas.

VICE PRESIDENT DENIES REOPENING OF CUBAN OFFICE

PA092321 San Jose LA PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 28 Feb 84 p 2

[Text] First Vice President Alberto Fait Lizano yesterday said that the Costa Rican Government currently has no interest in establishing commercial ties with the Cuban regime through the reopening of a trade office in San Jose.

Commenting on recent newspaper reports and editorials about Fait's alleged meeting with Cuban officials, the vice president said that he has not met with any Cuban citizen lately. Fait Lizano said: "I do not know Mr Cabrera [not further identified]. I do not know who he is, yet there have been reports that I met with him. Perhaps the newspaper editor knows Cabrera." Fait said afterwards that he had met with Marerro [not further identified] once last year. He said: "Marrero came to see me in my private office to discuss the possibility of reopening the Cuban trade office in San Jose, which had been opened and later closed during Rodrigo Carazo Odio's administration."

The vice president said that the meeting lasted no more than 20 minutes. Marrero proposed a trade office manned by two people, but he was told that his request could not be granted because of the current international political situation, especially the Central American situation. Fait Lizano said that he does not understand why people create such stories.

EL SALVADOR

PDC CANDIDATE DUARTE ASSAILS ARENA'S D'AUBUISSON

PA111803 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Report by Raul Beltran Bonilla]

[Text] Since early today Army units have been carrying out counterinsurgency operations near the town of Santiago de Maria, 75 km east of San Salvador, which was attacked by FMLN guerrillas from midnight to early this morning. Military sources have not yet reported whether the Army or the guerrillas suffered any casualties during the 8-hour attack on Santiago de Maria in Usulutan Department.

Meanwhile, Salvadoran Army troops continue patrols in search of rebels in Tecoluca and nearby villages such as San Fernando, El Socorro, San Ramon Grifal, San Antonio Caminos, Llanos de Achichilco, Los Pozos, Los Laureles, San Diego, Santa Gertrudis, San Jose, and Rio Frio.

According to military reports, 8 soldiers were killed and 17 seriously wounded in the fighting in the past few hours near the Jiboa sugar mill.

Other reports indicate that judicial authorities have confirmed that the bodies of two youths, whose names were not disclosed, were found at the side of a road east of Soyapango. Initial reports indicate that the youths were included on the list of missing persons recently issued by the Christian Legal Aid Office. The reports add that, in addition to having been shot, they had been tortured.

Meanwhile, approximately 20,000 peasants of the Democratic Popular Unity, UPD, this morning filled the Libertad Park and some of the streets of San Salvador at the end of a political rally for Christian Democratic Party [PDC] leaders Jose Napoleon Duarte and Rodolfo Castillo Claramount, accompanying them to the Flor Blanca National Stadium. PDC presidential candidate Jose Napoleon Duarte accused three Army officers of being linked to the organization created by General Jose Alberto Medrano to carry out actions against Salvadoran politicians in the previous decade. Here is an excerpt of the PDC candidate's speech:

[Begin recording] They say that the enemies are first of all the communists, but then they add that the Christian Democrats are also communists and they also want to kill them. Then they say that the workers are communists, and they also try to kill them. Then they say that the peasants are communists, and they also try to kill them. In other words, they are going to kill everyone, because they believe that the only ones who are truly the people are the wealthy and not the [words indistinct] [applause, shouting] the Salvadoran people. We have to understand why this is so. We have to remember that when the reforms began, those gentlemen of the oligarchy, the wealthy of the oligarchy, decided to select a little thug and to use him as their instrument. [end recording]

Here is another excerpt of PDC candidate Jose Mapoleon Duarte's speech at this morning's rally of the UPD and the PDC in Libertad Park:

[Begin recording] They began to look for the most suitable person. Who else but the one who had been trained by Gen Medrano? You remember what was published about this. I am not the one saying this; a U.S. magazine said it. The magazine interviewed Gen Medrano, and he said that he created the G-2, the ORDEN [Nationalist Democratic Organization], and the ANSESAL [National Security Agency of El Salvador]. What is the ANSESAL? It is the Salvadoran gestapo. Gen Medrano said that in order to create these three things he used three of his assassins, that is what he called them. In his remarks to the U.S. newspaper [as heard], Medrano names his three assassins. Gen Medrano says that the first was Captain Avila. Dear Salvadoran people, do you know who Capt Avila is? Capt Avila is now in jail because the Salvadoran Army [applause] arrested him precisely for the assassination of Companero Viera, the leader of the UPD and president of the Salvadoran Agrarian Transformation Institute. That is why Avila is in jail. [applause] Gen Medrano says that the second assassin was Major (Roeder). You know who Maj (Roeder) is? He is the one being held in the Mariona jail precisely because the national police found him with the leader of all the kidnappers in the country. [applause] The third and last assassin mentioned by Gen Medrano is none other than Major D'Aubuisson. Now we know why the oligarchy has selected a man who has such schooling and mentality. Now we know why Maj D'Aubuisson stole the ANSESAL files. Now we know why he learned to point this finger at the people. That is why he has pointed a finger at all the union leaders. That is why he has had the [word indistinct] capacity to create the death squads. That is why he has been threatening all the towns, to create fear, to keep the people afraid so that they won't vote, because this is the method that they have used to keep the Salvadoran people oppressed. [end recording]

UPD EXPLAINS SUPPORT FOR CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS

PA111532 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 9 Mar 84 p 30

[Communique issued by the Democratic Popular Unity, UPD; date and place not given]

[Text] The UPD reports to the Salvadoran people:

In the foreign news media, especially that of the United States, extreme rightist sectors interested in destabilizing the current democratic process and its success have reported that the UPD signed the social pact and supported the government platform of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] and its presidential and vice presidential candidates because the UPD was pressured by the Armed Forces High Command.

In view of this tendentious misinformation, which attacks mainly the Armed Forces, the UPD makes known to the people of El Salvador and the world that the decision to support the PDC in the current electoral process came solely and exclusively from our organization's rank and file and that, representing that sovereign will, the UPD political committee has supported the social pact that the PDC will implement in its administration.

The UPD also takes this opportunity to stress that the Armed Froces are constitutionally obliged to be apolitical and to refrain from having links with any of the contending political parties, mainly so that the defects of the past will not be repeated and so that no new dictatorships will be established in our country. Nevertheless, some Armed Forces members who hold positions in the military detachments in the interior of the country and are moved by their personal interests are using their power to exert influence on the people's sovereign decision, which will be expressed in favor of democracy on 25 March. They are trying to pressure the people to vote for parties that have known antipopular leanings, especially the extreme rightist Nationalist Republican Alliance, ARENA.

In the face of this, the UPD publicly criticizes these positions and asks the Armed Forces High command to establish effective controls so that these actions will not be repeated and so that the Salvadoran people's right to decide freely will be respected, thus guaranteeing the results of the current electoral process.

Marcos Salazar, Ramon Aristides Mendoza, Refugio Sanchez, Francisco Hernandez, Mario Eduardo Espinoza, Samuel Maldonado, and Miguel Angel Vasquez

ARENA FINED; PENALTY AGAINST PDC EXPECTED

PA101506 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Report by Belarmino Garcia]

[Text] The Nationalist Republican Alliance [ARENA] has been fined for using another party's propaganda. It has been reported that the Central Electoral Council [CCE] has imposed a 2,000-colon fine on ARENA for using the colors and ideology of another party to denigrate it and to confuse the people. The announcement by the CCE secretariat general indicated that ARENA used the color and slogans of the Christian Democratic Party, PDC, in advertisements published on 20 and 21 February in two San Salvador newspapers. Such an action by ARENA violates Article 72, Point 2, of the electoral law regarding propaganda that uses the colors and ideas of another party to denigrate it and to confuse the people.

Activists of the PDC have pasted PDC propaganda on the CCE posters urging the people to vote in the elections. People who have noted this negative attitude told the CCE that the PCD activists had placed propaganda on the CCE posters near the sports center stating: Choose Your Right to Live in Peace With Your Vote. The posters were picked up by CCE workers and are being held as proof of the PCD violation. The CCE is expected to announce the type of penalty it will impose on the PDC tomorrow.

It has also been reported that members of the departmental electoral boards will be sworn in at 1000 tomorrow at the CCE. The boards are made up of representatives of seven of the eight registered parties. The MERECEN [Stable Centrist Republican Movement] did not present a list of its representatives in the departments. The Popular Orientation Party, POP, did not present representatives in Morazan, Sonsonate, or Usulutan.

CCE REPORTS PREPARATIONS FOR ELECTIONS

PA101614 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 9 Mar 84 pp 3, 7

[Text] Central Electoral Council [CCE] member Jaime Trebanino Llovel yesterday reported that 2,549,898 voters are listed in the electoral registry. He explained that the voting lists to be used by the vote receiving boards on 25 March are being compiled. He said that citizens can be sure that the registry has been updated so that no identification cards have been registered twice and so that no one will be able to vote twice.

Trebanino Llovel said that there will be 6,912 vote receiving boards working on election day. He explained that the CCE plans to install in San Salvador Department 1,353 municipal ballot boxes, 100 departmental, and 302 national, for a total of 1,755 ballot boxes for all of San Salvador Department.

Trabanino Llovel listed the following ballot box figures per department: Santa Ana, 625; San Miguel, 558; La Libertad, 600; Usulutan, 508; Sonsonate, 442; La Union, 367; La Paz, 339; Chalatenango, 214; Cuscatlan, 333; Morazan, 268; Ahuachapan, 364; San Vicente, 292; and Cabanas, 247.

He added that the CCE members are conducting a study to find the best locations for the Salvadoran people to vote quickly and comfortably on 25 March.

REBEL THREATS TO DISRUPT ELECTIONS ALLEGED

PA090431 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 7 Mar 84 p 19

[Text] The terrorists will attack all vehicles that travel eastern El Salvador's highways from 15 to 25 March, the day of the presidential elections. The rebels have issued the threat in leaflets that they have distributed in several eastern El Salvador villages, according to numerous residents of villages that have received the leaflets. The rebels have also warned the villagers to stay away from the polls or to face the consequences if they do vote.

The effects of the terrorist campaign on the village residents is not known, but it should be recalled that the rebels undertook similar actions and issued identical threats in an attempt to sabotage the March 1982 elections. On that occasion, the people disregarded both and displayed the greatest example of civic responsibility in Salvadoran history.

SOCIAL SECURITY INSTITUTE WORKERS END STRIKE

PA111326 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] We have a report on the end of the 19-day strike by approximately 5,000 workers of the Salvadoran Institute of Social Security [ISSS]. Here is the official communique of the workers' union:

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] The board of directors of the ISSS and the board of directors of the Trade Union of Salvadoran Social Security Institute Workers [STISSS] announce that the labor conflict ended at 2230 on 9 March and that therefore the strike is over.

Consequently, we issue a call to ISSS hospital workers to return to work immediately and to those who work in the administrative offices and outpatient clinics at the national level to report to work on Monday, 12 March, at the usual time.

For the ISSS board of directors, Vice President Jorge Bustamente

For the STISSS secretariat general, Carlos [name indistinct] [end recording]

GOVERNMENT, REBEL MILITARY ACTIVITY REPORTED

Counterinsurgency Operations

PA090450 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1210 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Counterinsurgency operations are continuing north of the village of Osicala and parallel to the Torola River in the eastern Department of Morazan in search of leftists who are attempting to advance toward areas near San Francisco Gotera and other northern villages.

Meanwhile, it has been confirmed that fighting between Army units and rebels near Alegria Lake, in Usulutan Department, has left seven casualties on both sides. [as heard]

Army units have simultaneously been patrolling the section of the Pan-American Highway, El Salvador's most important thoroughfare, between Villa El Triunfo and San Buenaventura since early this morning. The rebels obstructed traffic at this point of the highway last Wednesday.

In central El Salvador, reports from Chalatenango Department say that about 2,000 troops began counterinsugrency operations in five Chalatenango villages yesterday evening.

Army sources, meanwhile have denied FMLN reports that Honduran troops have made simultaneous incursions along the Honduran-Salvadoran border, violating Salvadoran territory. Military sources in Chalatenango have said that they have received no reports of incursions by Honduran Army troops along the border between Chalatenango Department and Honduras.

Another counterinsurgency operation began early yesterday morning near the Provinces of Verapaz, Guadalupe, and San Emigdio and adjacent rural areas in response to attacks by FMLN guerrilas there last Tuesday, which left at least 15 casualties, including Salvadoran Army troops and civilians.

In La Paz Department, military reports say that counterinsurgency operations conducted north of Zacatecoluca, the department's capital, have been successful because rebel elements there have been dislodged.

Political leaders in Zacatecoluca have reported that in the past few hours the authorities from San Pedro Nonualco in La Paz Department have been pressuring voters, particularly those in the rural areas, to vote for a specific political party. The leaders will send a protest note to the Supreme Court of Justice asking it to investigate the conduct of the San Pedro Nonualco justices of the peace who are campaigning against the new constitution.

Rebels Occupy Town

PA101601 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 9 Mar 84 pp 2, 53

[Text] Approximately 300 terrorists occupied San Esteban Catarina, in San Vicente Department, early yesterday morning. They forced the inhabitants to attend a meeting and then forcibly took 70 young men. The subversives arrived in the town at approximately 0400. One group went to the church and began ringing the bell. Others used loudspeakers to demand that the people gather in the park for a meeting. After almost all the townspeople had gathered in the park, the individuals dressed in olive drab shouted insults against the government, the Army, and the elections, which they said they will boycott.

While this was going on, another group was identifying the 13- to 20-year-olds, tying their hands, and separating them from the rest of the townspeople. Another group went from house to house looking for more youths. When they had gathered about 70 young men they took them away, despite the cries and pleas of their mothers. They fled to the northeast, toward the San Esteban Catarina Valley, San Jacinto, (La Burrera), Amatitan Abajo, and Amatitan Arriba.

Before leaving the town the terrorists set fire to the municipal building and stole typewriters, 900 identification cards without numbers, and 500 with numbers. Among the 300 terrorists there were at least 10 foreigners, judging from their characteristics. They included three heavily built blacks with afros and a young white woman who hardly spoke Spanish and who was carrying a radio receiver on her back. The group included armed 12-year-old boys. There was no shooting since there are no guards in the town.

The reports added that when the terrorists were in San Esteban a bus from Apastepeque arrived. The terrorists forced the boys and the driver to get out of the bus and to go with them. At the same time, 1.5 km away from the town, another group of rebels stopped cars and stole money from the drivers at the turnoff from San Vicente to the eastern region. They fled when soldiers arrived.

FMLN Ambushes Army Columns

PA100438 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] San Vicente -- Salvadoran Army troops and FMLN forces waged fierce clashes yesterday from 0800 to 2000 between Los Hoyos and Chanmico, in Tecoluca jurisdiction, San Vicente Department. Both sides sustained an unconfirmed number of casualties, military sources have reported. According to the report, two columns of the 5th Infantry Brigade left San Vicente at 0600 yesterday, heading toward the area north of Tecoluca to conduct search and rescue operations. The columns were able to move through the area without incident.

The sources reported that rebels ambushed the troops from strategic positions as they returned to San Vicente. The troops repelled the attack by engaging in hand-to-hand combat with the rebels. There were many casualties on both sides as a result of the bloody clash, reported slightly wounded soldiers who were able to flee. The wounded soldiers emerged from the brush near the Jiboa sugar refinery with bruises and scratches and said that they had seen dead comrades and approximately 16 wounded who were transported by Salvadoran Air Force helicopters to the military hospital last night. They added that the rebels had sustained an unconfirmed number of casualties.

It was reported that new troops were sent to the area this morning to evacuate the victims and to investigate the number of enemy casualties. The reports added that artillery units stationed in the Jiboa sugar refinery in Tecoluca launched mortar attacks last evening between 1930 and 2000. The results of that action were unknown at the time of this broadcast.

Fighting in San Miguel

PA101657 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Report by Raul Beltran]

[Text] The Armed Forces have begun 24-hour-day counterinsurgency operations in San Miguel Department after learning of leftist sectors' plans for sabotage actions in San Miguel, the country's third most important city. Reports indicate that the most intense fighting has taken place in San Luis de la Reina and near Ciudad Barrios.

When asked about guerrilla reports of Honduran soldiers entering El Salvador to fight the FMLN guerrillas, high-ranking officers in the 3d Military Zone told Radio Cadena YSKL this morning that such reports are false. They said that what could be occurring is that Honduran troops are firmly protecting their border, because they have every right to guard their territory. They indicated that, as a result of counterinsurgency operations, the guerrillas have withdrawn from Cabanas, Morazan, and especially northern Usulutan Department. They said some guerrillas have fled to areas on the Honduran-Salvadoran border. It has been reported that from Saturday to Thursday, 60 rebels were killed and 43 wounded, while the Army has suffered 5 casualties.

For the second consecutive day, leftist guerrillas have carried out incursions in areas of San Vicente Department, 50 km east of San Salvador. Military reports indicate that rebels attacked government positions this morning in Cerro San Jacinto, Guajoyo River, and the village of (Achiquilco). As of noon on Friday, it was confirmed that 8 soldiers were killed and 17 wounded in the battles with the FMLN guerrillas. Military reports said that the number of FMLN casualties is unknown.

Meanwhile, leftists have blocked traffic from San Martin to Suchitoto. They have dug trenches and placed barricades on the road, according to civilians fleeing areas near Suchitoto. They said the rebels are positioned on a stretch of the road to Suchitoto and are demanding a war tax from drivers and passengers.

The Army has continued shelling rebel positions north of Nueva Esparta, La Union Department, after guerrillas entered the town of Nueva Esparta on Thursday without harming the civilian population but stealing food and medicine. Since yesterday afternoon they have been occupying the towns of Poloros and Lislique in northern La Union Department.

Guerrillas Claim San Vicente Victory

PA100110 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] The puppet army has suffered a categorical defeat in San Vicente Department. [Words indistinct] its attempt to enter the areas under our control in San Vicente has been repelled. The dictatorship is trying to tie our forces down as the electoral farce nears, but what it doesn't know is that we have big surprises in store for our enemies throughout our territory.

Yesterday, in an attrition operation, we dealt the enemy well-deserved punishment for the abuses that have been committed against the people in that area. The puppet forces were advancing from west to east in three separate movements: to Tecoluca, to San Fernando, and to El Playon. Other enemy forces advanced from the cantons of San Francisco and San Jacinto in the direction of La Campana Hill and from the cantons of Rio Frio, Rio Grande, and San Antonio Achichilquito in the direction of the canton of San Bartolo.

Our forces clahsed with the enemy at 1200 on 8 March and repelled them. The fighting in San Jacinto lasted until 1500; the enemy was trying to occupy the high ground, but our forces repelled the attack. A U.S.-made helicopter gunship soon appeared in the combat area and strafed the guerrillas' combat lines with no effect on our military operation.

A push-and-pull plane appeared at 1600. It launched rockets against La Campana, Soledad, Pilon, and Buena Vista Hills. The enemy's efforts to evacuate its casualties failed, and the helicopter left at 1800 without accomplishing its mission. Our revolutionary forces thus stopped the enemy's advance and the enemy troops fled in disarray at 1900, leaving behind their dead and various military supplies.

Attention Salvadorans, we have seized a large quantity of military supplies [words indistinct]. In San Vicente, we gave the troops who work for Vides Casanova, the general who sold out to the Gringos, just what they had coming. This categorical victory for our people's army is a tribute to the "Heroes and Martyrs of 28 February 1977."

Guerrillas, Belloso Battalion Clash

PA100159 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Our correspondent, Companera Lorena Garcia, has reported that our guerrilla army has dealt another blow to the dictatorship's troops that are patrolling Usulutan Department. For approximately 2 hours on 7 March, our guerrilla units clashed with troops from the Belloso Battalion and the 6th Infantry Brigade, which were patrolling the San Agustin and San Francisco Javier zones.

At 1000, our forces caught these troops by surprise in El Pilon canton. A violent clash immediately ensued in which the enemy suffered two casualties. One was an officer of the Gringo Ramon Belloso Battalion. The dictatorship's troops have been receiving constant blows as the dictatorship prepares another electoral farce to continue the deception and exploitation of the workers.

FMLN Reports San Vicente Victories

PA110254 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] Our people's army has continued to defeat the CONARA [National Commission for Reconstruction of Affected Areas] battalions in San Vicente. On 8 March, the puppet army attempted to break into the area under our control east of the Chichontepec Volcano, but our guerrilla columns disrupted the soldiers' march, ambushed them, and finally forced them to flee in disarray.

We have received reports from San Vicente that fighting was continuing yesterday in the area near San Bartolo canton, beside the Tecoluca Highway. The dictatorship has sent in the (Tehuacan), Jiboa, and (Cana) Battalions.

In fighting against our guerrilla columns on 8 March, the puppet dictatorship sustained 30 casualties. We seized one M-16 rifle and a large quantity of war materiel. Throughout the national territory [14-second break in transmission] 1977.

Hail our guerrilla columns! Firm steps and accurate blows, guerrilla army! Toward the taking of power! United to fight until the final victory, revolution or death, we will win!

Usulutan Town Bombed

PA111852 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Three civilians have been wounded during indiscriminate bombing by the dictatorship in Las Flores canton, in the jurisdiction of Santiago de Maria, Usulutan Department. Meanwhile, the dictatorship has reported that it suffered 25 casualties in a guerrilla ambush near Tecoluca, San Vicente Department.

Venceremos on 8 Mar Clashes

PA120142 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Radio Venceremos will now read military reports from the Anastasio Aquino Paracentral Front, San Vicente Department. On 8 March, Cazadores Battalion troops from the 5th Infantry Brigade entered FMLN-controlled areas east of Chinchontepec Volcano. The puppet troops advanced from west to east on three fronts: Tecoluca, San Fernando, and the El Playon road. They also advanced from San Francisco and San Jacinto cantons toward La Campana Hill. Meanwhile, another battalion advanced through Rio Grande, Rio Frio, and San Antonio Achichilquito cantons toward San Bartolo canton.

At the same time, FMLN troops were staging a large-scale military operation to wear down the puppet troops as much as possible. The clashes began at noon on 8 March in San Jacinto and spread rapidly throughout the entire area where the enemy attempted to infiltrate. The dictatorship's forces received reinforcements from the Air Force. A helicopter gunship, O-2 light aircraft, and other planes from the dictatorship's Air Force were deployed in the area. After 7 hours of fighting, during which the planes incessantly bombed our positions, the FMLN fighters carried out intensive operations on the battlefield to inflict another severe defeat on the enemy. The enemy troops fled in disarray at 1900, leaving their dead, injured, and a large quantity of war materiel lying on the ground. The dictatorship suffered 30 casualties during these clashes.

Recent Fighting in Northeast

PA120349 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Radio Venceremos will now give military reports. In northern San Miguel Department, there has been heavy fighting between FMLN forces and some of the dictatorship's battalions, [Colonel Domingo] Monterrosa's battalions, which have retreated in the face of our revolutionary fervor.

Preliminary reports indicate that [passage indistinct] on Friday, 9 March, clashes began between units of the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade and the Ponce Battalion, which is the second Cazadores Battalion in San Miguel. This fighting took place near San Luis la Reina.

After intensive fighting in which the dictatorship repeatedly used its Air Force and artillery, the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade forced the Ponce Battalion to retreat to Ciudad Barrios. We repeat: After intensive fighting, the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade forced Domingo Monterrosa's entire Ponce Battalion to retreat from the San Luis la Reina area to Ciudad Barrios. [35-second break in transmission]

Preliminary reports indicate that on Saturday, 10 March, forces from the FMLN's Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade attacked the Cuscatlan Battalion, which was stationed in the town of Carolina in northern San Miguel Department. Our revolutionary forces completely dislodged the Cuscatlan Battalion and forced it to retreat.

In the fighting in both the San Luis la Reina area and in Carolina, our revolutionary forces have inflicted heavy casualties on Domingo Monterrosa's units. On Sunday, 11 March, members of the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade attacked the Morazan Battalion, which is based in San Francisco Gotera, on the highway between San Simon and Villa El Rosario. In this fighting, our units also killed and wounded many members of the Morazan Battalion. These are the first reports that Radio Venceremos has received on this fighting that has lasted for the past 3 days and nights in northeastern El Salvador.

VENCEREMOS SAYS UNITED STATES TO SEND TROOPS

PA100447 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Radio Venceremos has received information indicating that Ronald Reagan has decided to intervene in our fatherland in view of the defeat of Vides Casanovas' Army. Here is our report:

The U.S. Defense Department has announced that 2,000 North American troops will be sent to the Honduran-Salvadoran border next week. The 2,000 North American troops are from the 19th [as heard] Infantry Brigade stationed in Panama, whose mission is to protect the Panama Canal. A U.S. Defense Department spokesman said that this dispatch of troops is not part of the military maneuvers previously announced.

A reporter who was present at the news conference asked the Pentagon spokesman if they thought it would be possible to fulfill the mission of observing the Salvadoran elections from the border. The North American Pentagon official responded: Well, there are no defined borders there.

Other reports confirm that the following installations located in Honduras near our border have been reinforced or expanded: La Esperanza Airport, the (Marchala) Airport, and the military installations in the (Marchala) area. There is also a confirmed report that in southwest Honduras there are three military bases, which are spread out at equal distances along the Salvadoran border. They are part of the antiguerrilla actions directed against our national territory.

Having exhausted every means to try to keep the Salvadoran dictatorship from collapsing, North American imperialism has had to resort to its last card -- direct military intervention by North American troops in our territory. The mere fact of the presence of North American troops at the Honduran-Salvadorn border is an act of intervention by the United States that strongly violates our homeland's sovereignty. The statement by the Pentagon spokesman that our homeland has no defined borders demonstrates Ronald Reagan's clearly interventionist intentions.

VENCEREMOS CLAIMS HONDURAN TROOPS AT BORDER

PA091836 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] In previous broadcasts Radio Venceremos has reported on the massing of Honduran forces along the border area of the Salvadoran Department of Morazan. Radio Venceremos is now receiving reports that the Honduran Army has also massed battalions along the border area of Chalatenango Department. The report from that department indicates the following: The Honduran Army has massed forces along the border with El Salvador in the area of Chalatenango Department from the jurisdictions of San Fernando, El Carrizal, Ojos de Qgua, behind Chichilco Hill up to the border area of Arcatao, even covering the border area of Cabanas Department.

The Honduran troops have been stationed in the Honduran localities of Santa Lucia, San Jose, (El Cacaguaranzal), (?and) (Cerro el Tecolote). The report adds that General Alvarez Martinez's Army has been concentrated in various towns and positions in Lempiras Department, Honduras. According to the report, the Honduran Army began moving to positions at the border area of Chalatenango Department on 4 March. Another report, this time from Morazan, adds more information on the concentration of Honduran forces at our border.

Honduran troops have conducted patrols in the area known as (Los Mojones). Reports from Morazan Department confirm that 200 Honduran Army troops arrived Wednesday at 1100 at the place known as Vado Neuvo. The civilian population in the border area of Morazan Department has charged that Honduran troops have been firing with heavy .50-cal machine guns at the Salvadoran civilian population.

The FMLN is keeping its troops along the border with Honduras on the alert, ready to defend every inch of our national territory against the aggression which General Alvarez intends to carry out against our fatherland.

REBELS CALL FOR PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT, DIALOGUE

Broadcast From Captured Station

PA100331 San Salvador Radio El Mundo in Spanish 1905 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Message to the Salvadoran people from members of El Salvador's FMLN and the Revolutionary Democratic Front, FDR, during their temporary occupation of the joint studios of Radio El Mundo and Radio Clasica in Mejicanos, and Radio Centroamericana in San Salvador; dated February -- recorded]

[Text] While the dictatorship prepares for the new electoral farce in the city and in the country, our heroic people fight for their final liberation. While imperialism expedites its preparations for a direct military intervention in El Salvador using the puppet armies of Guatemala and Honduras, our FMLN-FDR front has successfully begun our "Heroes of 28 February 1977" political-military campaign. In Morazan, on the western front, in the heart of San Salvador, our military units respond with their weapons to the maneuvers of the Yankee aggressors.

Meanwhile, the genocidal government is using the 25 March elections as another scheme within the preparations for the Yankee military invasion. The March elections are one more step toward direct military intervention by the Yankees. At no time will they ensure peace; on the contrary, they will intensify the war.

Our people have confirmed this fact during more than 40 years of military dictatorships. The March elections are not the solution to the hunger, poverty, and injustice that thousands of Salvadorans suffer. We have the results of the 1982 elections, which have not solved the people's problems. On the contrary, during the past 2 years, the cost of living has gone even higher, the recession has worsened, and the operations of the ominous death squads of D'Aubuisson and the oligarchy have increased.

The electoral scheme, meanwhile, will be financed with the sweat of our people because imperialism requires a government with a democratic facade to complete its direct military intervention. Imperialism will invent whatever means are necessary to achieve this. Despite this, the government claims that it does not have the funds to grant the salary increases that the working class is so rightly demanding.

Our fronts reject the electoral scheme of 25 March, because adequate conditions to ensure that the elections are a true solution to our people's war are absent. We also wish to express our unconditional solidarity with the workers who are currently on strike to demand their just benefits: the companeros of ANDA [National Administration of Waterworks and Sewers], IS [not further identified], (Talleres Arce), and [word indistinct] (of Central America), who have our complete support.

We also protest the opportunistic attitude of the bourgeois political parties, particularly the Christian Democratic Party, which is attempting to take advantage of the working class' struggle to generate votes for its electoral campaign. It exploits the workers and then pretends to support their demands.

Our proposal to solve the people's problems is to establish a provisional, broad-based government that can guarantee the peace that we so fervently desire. We maintain that the search for peace in El Salvador requires a process that includes the greatest possible number of political and social forces, which will create a viable solution based on the elimination of the factors previously mentioned, which are the cause of the conflict. This is why the FMLN-FDR proposes to establish a provisional, broad-based government that will follow a structured government platform including the indispensable tasks that we must undertake to overcome the current crisis, tasks that will allow our people to continue the social, political, and economic changes leading toward a more equitable society.

The basic goals of the provisional, broad-based government are:

1. Rescue El Salvador's sovereignty and independence

2. Destroy the apparatus of repression and establish the bases for a democracy that will grant full respect for human rights and political freedom and that will allow the people's full participation in the efforts to find firm peace.

3. Attend to the most urgent and immediate needs of the people and adopt the basic economic and social measures to service these needs.

4. Establish the priority practical conditions needed to overcome the current state of war.

5. Organize and hold general elections.

The provisional, broad-based government will have the simplest possible structure. Some of the immediate measures to be taken are:

The immediate repeal of the 1983 Constitution, to be replaced by a constitutional statute that will regulate the functions of the provisional government.

The abolition of the state of seige and of all the decrees issued since 1980 that restrict individual and social liberties.

The release of all prisoners and members of political parties and the annulment of all sentences based on emergency decrees.

The granting of full guarantees so that democratic rights, both collective and individual can be exercised. A provisional statute will be issued to regulate the agricultural and state workers' rights to form unions. Unions will receive indemnification for the damages caused to their property as a result of the repression that has existed since 1969.

The legitimization of the people's power that emerged during the war in different areas of El Salvador.

The dissolution of the security forces and the death squads and their political wing, ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance]. A civilian policy force will be created, which will be the responsibility of the Interior Ministry.

The withdrawal of U.S. advisers, a halt to the intervention of military aid from other countries, and the suspension of all arms supplies.

The investigation and trial of all civilians and military personnel responsible for genocide, political crimes, torture, disappearances, and crimes against individual liberties. The killing of FMLN fighters, soldiers, non-commissioned officers, and officers during combat will not be considered crimes.

The implementation of an emergency program to rebuild the economic, educational, and health infrastructures that have deteriorated because of the war.

The issuance of a decree extending the payment of debts to the small and medium proprietors. A vast and adequate financial plan will be implemented for these sectors, both industrial and agricultural, in an attempt to bring about economic recovery.

The establishment of price controls on staple and popular consumption products, in an attempt to improve the spending power of the salaries.

Reorganization and control of the marketing and distribution of staples and popular consumption products.

In order to implement these proposals, it is necessary to begin dialogue and negotiations that will consider the following:

1. Who will take part in the process of dialogue and negotiation? The conflicting parties:

a) An FMLN-FDR delegation.

b) A Salvadoran Government and Armed Forces delegation.

c) The U.S. roving ambassador to Central America, who represents the U.S. Government.

d) Mediators and authorized arbiters appointed with the consensus of the parties involved.

e) International witnesses, such as representatives from the Contadora Group, which is a democratic body.

2. Bases for the process of dialogue and negotiation.

a) Direct, unconditional dialogue, organized by one or several mediators, be it by individual initiative or by request of the conflicting parties, that may lead to the realization of substantial negotiations, with goals, objectives, and procedures.

3. Direct negotiations between the conflicting parties with the mediators controlling the flow of the meetings, and with the attendance of the ambassadors appointed by the governments that are chosen as witnesses.

After the process of dialogue and negotiations has begun, and when it has reached an advanced state, the FMLN-FDR will make public its willingness to negotiate a cease-fire.

Following the conclusion of agreements, the documents will be signed in the presence of the conflicting parties, the witnesses in their capacity as guarantors for the agreements, and the mediators.

Immediately thereafter, the agreements will be implemented in accordance with established dates and deadlines. This process will end with the organization of a single national army composed of the FMLN forces and the Government Armed Forces, after they have been purged.

Until then, both armies will retain control over their weapons.

No to elections! Yes to dialogue and negotiations!

Revolution or death, we will win!

[Signed] FMLN General Command, FDR Executive Committee

Oqueli Calls for Dialogue

PA110216 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2321 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Report by Antonio Ortega]

[Text] Mexico City, 19 Mar (EFE) -- The presidential elections in El Salvador will take place within the framework of a "generalized war" while the "rebel movement is strengthened," a spokesman for the Salvadoran political-military opposition told EFE today. Hector Oqueli, a member of the Political-Diplomatic Commission of the FMLN-FDR, said that the "insurgent movement" controls one-third of the country and encompasses 90 of the 263 Salvadoran municipalities. The opposition representative said that the situation of a "generalized war" is obvious, because in 1983 the Salvadoran Army sustained 7,000 casualties and 1,500 of its troops were taken prisoner, while the rebels seized approximately 3,000 rifles.

Oqueli said that with the Salvadoran elections taking place amid a climate of war, the government plans to simulate a "heavy voter turnout" by designating only a few polling places. It is "impossible that 1 million persons will go to vote," he said.

He admitted, however, that many Salvadorans will go to the polls on 25 March, not meaning to support any candidate but rather "to avoid problems, because not to vote in El Salvador is a crime, which can even cost one his life."

The representative of the left-wing FDR-FMLN coalition confirmed that the "insurgent movement" will not make the presidential elections a military objective, although he did say that for the guerrillas "25 March will be one more day in the conflict, one more day in the war," but without preventing the people from voting through military actions. He reiterated furthermore that the opposition fronts believe that the resolution to the Salvadoran conflict will not be achieved through elections, but through dialogue and political negotiations, which he saw as an impossibility before the elections.

Hector Oqueli noted that the FMLN-FDR has told several governments that it is necessary for the United States to understand that it is essential to engage in dialogue, in spite of the fact that the Salvadoran Government's Peace Commission was virtually defunct," because it was only interested in knowing if the guerrillas would participate in the elections. According to Oqueli, the Salvadoran guerrillas do not insist on dialogue because they are losing the war, but because they want to prevent more bloodshed and a direct and massive U.S. intervention in that Central American country.

The State Department and the Pentagon, he added, "believed 2 or 3 years ago that the guerrillas had between 2,000 to 3,000 troops; last year it estimated these forces at 6,000 to 8,000 to 12,000. This demonstrates, he said, that "there has been a strengthening of the popular movement, thanks in large part to the U.S. military assistance given to El Salvador."

For the FDR-FMLN representative, the elections are not a resolution to the Salvadoran conflict, and the guerrillas are advancing, which could probably "cause the collapse of the Army in such circumstances," thus increasing the risk of a U.S. invasion. This, he noted, is based on the fact that the United States and El Salvador "have a pact of honor not to 'lose' another Central American country," but it is becoming increasingly obvious "that it is the Salvadoran Army that is losing the war."

Hector Oqueli said that the Salvadoran conflict is taking place within the framework of "a large-scale interventionist policy (on the part of the United States), which in specific facts is translated into supporting the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries and turning Honduras into an occupied country." He concluded, therefore, "The 25 March elections are intended to resolve the problems of the United States and its interventionism in El Salvador" and in Central America.

Provisional Government Only Option

PA102301 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1639 GMT 9 Mar 84

[By Francisco Roque Bacarreza]

[Text] Washington, 9 Mar (EFE) -- The Salvadoran guerrillas have reiterated in Washington that the "only alternative" for a peaceful resolution to the civil war is to form a broad-based provisional government. In an interview with EFE it was said that after the "25 March fraudulent elections" the war will enter a new phase, with an expansion of the hostilities and much more stringent control of the territories under the responsibility of the rebels. The source, who granted the interview on the condition that he not be identified, noted that the FMLN fears a larger and more direct involvement of the United States in the conflict.

The source said, "The U.S. Administration is assessing the need for the presence of a foreign army as the Salvadoran Army fails to meet its objectives."

According to an analysis drafted by the guerrilla commands, a U.S. military intervention is predicted for the end of the year or the beginning of the next year, after the predicted electoral victory of Ronald Reagan for a second term in the White House. The rebel predictions indicate that the administration might initially call for a mass bombardment of the guerrilla-controlled regions. They might opt for employing mercenaries and eventually resort to a total and direct U.S. military intervention.

The conditions that will give rise to a direct participation of U.S. military forces are the confirmed corruption of the Salvadoran military commands and the low morale of the troops and low-ranking officers. The source claimed that that morale has decreased in the past few months, after the October offensive in which the guerrillas occupied an important military post and destroyed a bridge considered vital for military use.

The guerrillas believe that the upcoming elections are "a U.S. imposition" and will "not resolve anything." The source warned of the probability of a military coup after the elections, regardless of the results.

According to the rebel analysis, in the event that [Nationalist Republican Alliance candidate] Roberto D'Aubuisson wins, the U.S. CIA will resort to a coup to prevent a confrontation of an ultraright-wing regime with the Reagan administration. If [Christian Democratic candidate] Napoleon Duarte wins, there is the possibility of a coup promoted by the ultraright wing, unless the Christian Democrat agrees to all the demands of the military and ultraconservative opposition to allow his regime to stay afloat.

GUERRILLA COMMANDER ROCA ON USE OF REFUGEE CAMPS

For a confirmation of guerrilla use of refugee camps in El Salvador and Honduras, see the interview with Revolutionary Party of Central American Workers, PRTC, leader Roberto Roca carried by Brussels KNACK in Dutch on 30 November 1983 and published in the JPRS LATIN AMERICA REPORT of 23 February 1984 (JPRS-LAM-84-025), pp 48-54.

GUATEMALA

MEJIA ON CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, COMMUNIST PARTY

PA100027 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Guatemala -- The military, which has ruled by decree since the March 1982 coup, has called an election for a Constituent Assembly for 1 July. Chief of State General Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores has indicated that the Assembly must limit its activities to drafting a new constitution and has publicly warned that there may be dictatorship if the parties do not abide by the laws.

The previous constitution was abolished after the 1982 coup. Many parties are now registering in accordance with the new electoral law. Mejia Victores has said that the local communist party, the Guatemalan Labor Party, may not participate because it is one of the four guerrilla groups that oppose the government. These guerrilla groups have been active in Guatemala for two decades.

EGP AMBUSHES MILITARY PATROL IN QUICHE

PA090435 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 7 Mar 84 p 3

[Text] The Poor People's Guerrilla Army, EGP, has claimed responsibility for the ambush of a military patrol in Quiche Department, according to a TELEX report received by PRENSA LIBRE. The ambush occurred at 1200 on 25 February in Xalbal, in the jungle zone of Ixcan. The report says that four soldiers were killed and three were wounded. It adds that the EGP seized 3 Galil rifles, a 1 M-1 carbine, 16 bullet clips, 500 cartridges, and other military supplies.

The same report says that there was another clash at 1400 as government troops attempted to cut off the guerrilla forces retreat. One soldier and one guerrilla, a woman, were killed in this clash.

REVOLUTIONARY PARTY MEMBER GOMEZ SHOT TO DEATH

PA091726 Guatemala City Radio Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Excerpts] A valuable [word indistinct] of the Revolutionary Party [PR] has been shot to death in San Juan Tecuaco, Jutiapa Department. The victim was Gustavo Victoriano Gomez, whose home was attacked by unidentified men. The PR activist did not have a chance to defend himself.

PR leader (Edmundo Guerrero) said today that the crime was undoubtedly the result of a land conflict that Gomez had reported previously. (Guerrero) added that other PR members from the country's interior have also been victims of violence.

HONDURAS

PAZ BARNICA ON RELATIONS WITH U.S., C.A. NATIONS

PA090426 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] A meeting of the National Security Council was held yesterday, with Dr Roberto Suazo Cordova presiding in his capacity as president of the Republic. The council consists of Armed Forces Chief General Gustavo Alvarez Martinez, the commanders-in-chief of the various Armed Forces, the secretary of foreign relations, the secretary of government and justice, and the president of the Republic.

Here is Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica, the Council spokesman, who will tell us what was discussed during yesterday's meeting:

[Begin recording] [Paz Barnica] The Security Council made a detailed study of recent events, from the viewpoint of Honduran interests and their influence on Central America's problems. We assessed Belizean Prime Minister George Price's visit to our country and future contacts and trade and cultural agreements with Belize.

Similarly, we discussed the Central American situation and the Contadora Group's efforts, taking into account the fact that President Suazo's democratic and constitutional government has made concrete, positive proposals in the political, socio-economic, and security areas at Contadora Group sessions.

We also analyzed and discussed current relations with Nicaragua -- the present status of those relations, as well as the tense situation resulting from certain positions taken by some Nicaraguan diplomats and from acts of ground and sea harassment by the Nicaraguan Government -- within the context of the Honduran Government's desire to achieve detente; so as to secure lasting peace in the Central American region, and the government's support for the Contadora Group's efforts.

We also assessed the most recent meeting of the Honduran-Salvadoran border commissions, which took place in San Salvador a few days ago, from the viewpoint of the Honduran Government's interest in expediting and completing demarcation of the borders.

In addition, we considered the possibility of establishing, within a short period of time, a permanent embassy in The Hague, The Netherlands, which is the seat of the International Court of Justice.

We discussed the trip that I will make to Washington on Monday to attend the meeting of foreign ministers to choose a new OAS secretary general. This trip to Washington next week will provide an opportunity for me to talk with Secretary of State Shultz and with Mr Motley, the assistant secretary of state for Inter-American affairs, and members of the U.S. House and Senate, both Democrats and Republicans.

On another subject, it was confirmed that Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez will visit Honduras 22-24 March, as a sign of the fraternal links of friendship and shared democratic ideas that exist between the two countries.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr Foreign Secretary, just how effective, constructive or positive have the negotiations by the joint Honduran-Salvadoran commissions been, considering that Honduras is getting ready to establish an embassy in The Hague, the seat of the International Court of Justice?

[Paz Barnica] It is important to take the necessary advance steps. The general peace treaty specifies that on the expiration of the 5-year period for direct negotiations it will be necessary to turn to the International Court of Justice, which is the international recourse included in the treaty as a multilateral legal instrument.

As for the process of direct negotiation between the two commissions, the Honduran Government has a special interest in seeing matters resolved through communication, but there must be reciprocity. We trust and we hope that El Salvador acts as we do. If so, we believe that we will advance by making efforts at the two governments' highest political level.

[Reporter] Mr Foreign Secretary, the Nicaraguan Government continues to accuse Honduras of giving complete support to the counterrevolutionaries. In fact, in its most recent communiques, the Sandinist government practically threatened Honduras with reprisal.

[Paz Barnica] This is not a recent development. For several years, the Nicaraguan Government has falsely accused Honduras of contributing to destabilizing actions against the Nicaraguan Government. They have even said that an invasion of that country would be launched from Honduras. They cited certain dates. President Suazo Cordova's government has been in power for over 2 years and no such incident has occurred, because the Honduran Government does not plan to attack anyone; it will only defend itself if necessary.

We want only to struggle for peace and the democratization of Central America, on the basis of the people's will as freely expressed at the polls.

These accusations or threats by the Nicaraguan Government should be clearly understood. Honduras works for peace with acknowledged hope in the Contadora Group, but it also has the necessary integrity and dignity to defend the nation's sovereignty when circumstances demand. We hope that nothing will happen, since the Central American crisis should be resolved through dialogue and general and regional negotiations, rather than through hostile confrontations like those that Nicaragua has announced and is preparing for.

[Reporter] Mr Foreign Secretary, just this weekend, Nicaragua accused Honduras of using boats and airplanes to attack three Nicaraguan Coast Guard vessels.

[Paz Barnica] I am aware of this accusation. The appropriate investigations have been carried out, and the charge is groundless. That is why we have vigorously denied it in a diplomatic note.

[Reporter] Mr Foreign Secretary, the U.S. press has insisted that Honduras has become a virtual U.S. satellite and even that there are already U.S. bases here. We have to add that the IMF is exerting pressure to get the government to apply certain tax measures. What can you tell us about that?

[Paz Barnica] The U.S. military presence is limited and temporary. Its purpose, as I have said on several occasions, is to provide technical training for the Armed Forces, which, as you know, number no more than 17,000 or 18,000 men, including the police. That military presence is temporary. The Contadora Group's negotiations call for the elimination of all foreign military presence from the various countries in which it exists, particularly Nicaragua, which has 6,000 Cuban advisers alone, in the opinion of and according to a statement by a Nicaraguan diplomat who requested asylum in Spain last week, and some 300,000 men in arms. I do not think that they are simply preparing for elections, now that they have been given the right to vote.

As for IMF pressure, the Suazo government, through the appropriate authorities -- in this case, the Honduran Central Bank, the Finance and Public Credit Secretariat, and the economic team -- is examining the situation in an effort to resolve the economic crisis that is affecting all developing countries, and to obtain flexible terms from the IMF for a process of economic recovery through which we expect to carry the country forward. [end recording]

PAZ BARNICA QUOTED ON TROOP MOBILIZATION

PA101950 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 9 Mar 84 p 4

[Text] Tegucigalpa -- Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica yesterday said that although Nicaragua has moved troops toward its northern border, Honduras will not follow suit. The foreign secretary said he had not been able to confirm reports by international news agencies that the Nicaraguan Government was even moving Russian-made T-55 tanks toward the Honduran border. "If this is true, it would prove once again the Nicaraguan Government's warmongering attitude in contrast with Honduras' peaceful attitude," the foreign secretary said. "Honduras will maintain a limited number of troops at the border to safeguard its territorial integrity and national sovereignty," he added.

NICARAGUA

SERGIO RAMIREZ HEADS DELEGATION TO IRAN

PA100051 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Dr Sergio Ramirez Mercado, member of the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, is leading an official delegation that will leave for Iran at noon today. The visit of a member of the Government Junta to Iran is within the framework of Nicaraguan-Iranian relations. In 1982, an Iranian Government delegation visited Nicaragua in connection with the Iranian revolution. In 1983, a Nicaraguan mission led by Culture Minister Father Ernesto Cardenal and Foreign Trade Minister Alejandro Martinez Cuenca visited Iran to discuss commercial and cultural exchanges. These economic relations have led to agreements whereby Iran will supply oil to Nicaragua.

STATE COUNCIL CONTINUES WORK ON ELECTORAL LAW

Drops 31 Jan Residence Requirement

PA091602 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] The State Council last night approved important articles of the electoral bill. The session lasted until 2200. One of the articles approved deals with soldiers' right to vote. Another deals with the minimum age for presidential candidates, which is 25. The candidate must also be a layman and fully entitled to exert his political rights. To be elected to the Constituent Assembly, a candidate must be at least 21, but not necessarily a layman. This amends the original proposal and allows religious men to be Constituent Assembly candidates.

An article was also approved whereby candidates must resign their official posts 1 day after their campaigns have started. The State Council will meet again today at 1000. In addition, it has been reported that the State Council has eliminated a clause of the electoral bill banning those not residing in the country as of 31 January 1984 from becoming candidates in the upcoming elections. The clause had been included in the requirements for presidential and vice presidential candidates as well as for Constituent Assembly candidates. It was eliminated with little discussion.

Approves Article 91

PA092002 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Debates on the Electoral law yesterday advanced to Article 91, which was approved during one of the shortest debates at the State Council. It refers to the nomination of candidates for presidency, and for the 90 representatives to the national assembly.

This was the 11th day of the seventh special meeting, and it was dedicated to International Women's Day. Women's merits and sacrifices were praised by Commander of the Revolution Carlos Nunez, president of the State Council.

Article 85 states that political parties or alliances will be able to submit requests, in duplicate, to register their candidates. The requests should include names and surnames, the emblem of the party or alliance which appointed them, and post they are being nominated for.

Article 86 states that the Supreme Electoral Council will reject an application to register a candidacy if it does not meet the requirements or regulations established by law.

Major Provisions of Law

PA102232 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] The 91 articles of the electoral law approved to date by the State Council include electoral districts, electoral organizations, voter registration, electoral publicity, and campaigns. The council has also approved the articles related to electora ethics, political parties, electoral alliances, voters, elections of the president and vice president, nomination of candidates, and the voting process itself.

According to the law, the Supreme Electoral Council, a state power established by the Fundamental Statute, is the highest authority on electoral matters, and it will guarante the right of the Nicaraguan citizens to free, secret, direct, and equal suffrage. Voting for president and vice president will be nationwide. For the election of members of the National Assembly, which will consist of 90 representatives and their alternates, the country will be divided into regional, subregional, and special zone districts.

The council will be made up of a president and two regular members with their respective alternates to be appointed by the Supreme Court of Justice within 15 days after the law is put into effect. The duties of the Supreme Electoral Council include the appointment of members of the regional, subregional, and special zone electoral councils; the organization, regulation, and supervision of the voters' registry; and the scheduling of the electoral calendar after consultation with the National Assembly of Political Parties. The Supreme Council will organize citizen registration, political party registration, the period for nominating candidates, and the period for the electoral campaign.

The Supreme Council will also resolve the appeals and complaints filed against the regional, subregional, and special zone electoral councils. Other responsibilities of the Supreme Council include the proclamation of the elected candidates and conferral of their credentials, compilation of the national vote count, and the preparation of the Supreme Electoral Council's budget.

PSD PREPARING TO PARTICIPATE IN ELECTIONS

PA120146 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Excerpt] We neither like nor accept armed aggression, Dr Luis Rivas Leiva, the secretary general of the Social Democratic Party [PSD] said yesterday. Commenting on the latest counterrevolutionary attacks against Nicaragua, Rivas Leiva affirmed that his party will participate in the upcoming elections and is already taking the necessary steps to join the National Assembly of Political Parties.

PLI LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN AS OPPOSITION PARTY

PA112206 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1300 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Excerpt] The Independent Liberal Party [PLI], with the same responsibility with which it has historically faced challenges, has launched its electoral campaign in response to the government's invitation and is seeking to gain power as a political party. From this standpoint, it is reasonable to assume that it is an opposition party.

This is the opinion expressed by members of the PLI national directorate, who have also demanded that the Nicaraguan people be allowed to enjoy maximum political freedom so that they can carefully decide which government program suits them best. Dr (Cilio Calderon), PLI leader in Leon, has said that there are no real guarantees for the opposition parties to carry out their electoral campaigns. He emphasized the need for the parties to have access to the media and for the state of emergency to be lifted so that the parties can campaign nationwide.

CENTRAL AMERICAN TAX EXEMPTION PROTOCOL SIGNED

PA111641 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] The five Central American governments have decided to sign a fourth protocol of the Central American Agreement of Fiscal Incentives for Industrial Development [Convenio Centro Americano de Incentivos Fiscales al Desarrollo Industrial], which is effective until 31 December 1984. The resolution contains some reforms to the second protocol of the agreement, which explains that the tax exemptions contained in the agreement will be effective when the administrative document in which they are granted -- be it a decree, agreement, contract, or resolution by each government -- goes into effect.

With regard to raw materials or unfinished and unpackaged products, these incentives will not surpass at any time the lowest percentage of tax exemption that the requesting firm or any other Central American firm that produces similar products has ever enjoyed and whose benefits have expired or will expire between January 1973 and December 1984.

These reforms were signed by the following representatives of each country: Daniel Arriola, deputy economic minister of Guatemala; Jose Manuel Pacas, Salvadoran economy minister; Carlos Ugalde, Costa Rican ambassador to Guatemala; and Orlando Rojas Morales, Nicaraguan ambassador to Guatemala. The Honduran Government did not send a representative.

CHIEF JUSTICE ARGUELLO CRITICIZES LA PRENSA

PA092359 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] During an interview with Radio Sandino, Dr Roberto Arguello Hurtado, chief justice of the Supreme Court of Justice, said the newspaper LA PRENSA is not morally qualified to question the revolutionary leaders. Arguello Hurtado's comment refers to a series of attacks against him by the newspaper and a (?critical) article that was published in its 7 March edition, insulting him as a person and as a revolutionary official.

[Begin recording] [Arguello Hurtado] This is my chance to express my views. LA PRENSA has launched a campaign to destroy the officials of this revolution and has made personal attacks on the officials who occupy posts in the revolutionary government. The newspaper is trying to paint us as opportunists, despite the fact that we occupy key positions in this revolution. All I can say is that when the Government Junta was composed, LA PRENSA did not say that Arturo Cruz or [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance leader Alfonso] Robelo were opportunists. I do not hide and have never hidden the fact that I was a deputy when Dr Aguero led the opposition. I behaved in a dignified way at the time and, when the Somoza-Aguero pact was signed, I resigned from the Conservative Party. However, LA PRENSA makes it appear as if my resignation from the Conservative Party and my shame at being a member of that party is a recent development. That is a lie. They want to make it appear as if I am resigning from the Conservative Party now, but that took place years ago, when Somoza and Aguero signed their pact.

LA PRENSA, in trying to deceive the people and to destroy the image of the revolution's officials, is distorting the facts. When I was appointed chief justice of the Supreme Court of Justice, Violeta de Chamorro approved my appointment. I was not consulted by anyone about my appointment; I did not ask for this appointment. The revolution called me to serve the country, and I have made a personal sacrifice to do so. Now, LA PRENSA is calling me an opportunist. I wish that they would cease these personal attacks on the revolution's officials. My appointment as chief justice has meant a reduction in my income. I left an important position at an outstanding law firm that has one of the most active practices in Managua.

I accepted the appointment out of a sense of patriotic duty and because I have faith in the Sandinist people's revolution and wish to support it. LA PRENSA does not have the moral qualifications to try to destroy the honor and image of the revolution's officials. On the contrary, LA PRENSA's attitude is immoral. [end recording]

94 PEASANT REFUGEES RETURN FROM HONDURAS

PA092314 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Some 94 Nicaraguan refugees returning from Honduras said on arrival in Somoto this morning that they were very happy to be back in Nicaragua. The group was composed of peasants kidnapped from several villages in the Nueva Segovia and Madriz Departments, who were able to return due to the efforts of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR, in Honduras. Four buses transporting the refugees were enthusiastically greeted by the Somoto residents. The returning peasants participated in a political-cultural activity before returning to their families.

MINISTRY REPORTS 7 RESERVISTS KILLED IN WASPAM

PA092325 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 6 Mar 84 p 1

[Excerpt] As the Foreign Ministry last night announced the attack on Punta San Jose in the Gulf of Fonseca area, Defense Ministry sources reported that seven heroic fighters from the reserve infantry battalion based in Corinto were killed while defending the border post of Waspam, northern Zelaya, when counterrevolutionaries from Honduras attempted to occupy that community, which is very close to the border. During the attack, which began on Friday with mortar fire from Honduras, fighters Mario Zeledon Reyes, Marvin Cajina, Felix Gadea Quintero, Eddy Caceres, Norlan Ponce Morales, Manueal Gonzalez, and Jose Perez Garcia were killed. According to military sources, they were all workers from Corinto who had been mobilized on three occasions.

FAGOTH, CHAMORRO, CALERO CHARGED WITH CRIMES

PA102112 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Counterrevolutionary leaders Steadman Fagoth, Adolfo Calero Portocarrero, Edgar Chamorro Coronel, and former National Guard member Enrique Bermudez Varela are among the 22 men responsible for planning and perpetrating crimes against our people. They were charged yesterday at the people's anti-Somozist tribunals with violating the law on public order and security.

The attorney general's charges point out that these and other criminals are responsible for counterrevolutionary activities being committed every day against our people -- especially the massacre in Pantasma, Jinotega Department, on 18 October.

On that day, 3 FDN [Nicaraguan Democratic Force] task forces massacred 47 civilian citizens, including 11 members of the (El Charcon) and (Jacinto Hernandez) agricultural cooperatives.

The report adds that the criminal bands vented their cruelty on the population, killing the peasants and setting fire to the INCAFE [Nicaraguan Coffee Institute] installations, the cooperative's installations, and three ENABAS [Nicaraguan Basic Food Enterprise] storehouses.

The report also states that this terrorist act has taken place while the U.S. Congress discusses the appropriation of an additional $50 million to the FDN and the CIA in their covert war against the Nicaraguan people. Adolfo Calero Portocarrero, counterrevolutionary leader and member of the FDN national directorate, said in Washington that his organization might participate in important events in January 1984 [as heard], and that he could become the leader of a provisional government.

FDN CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY FOR MONTELIMAR ATTACK

PA101648 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 9 Mar 84 p 19

[Text] Adolfo Calero Portocarrero, president of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force, FDN, National Directorate and commander in chief of the rebel organization, claimed responsibility yesterday -- while in Caracas, Venezuela -- for a new rebel attack on the Sandinist military installations in Montelimar. The new attack on the artillery training school took place on the evening of 6 March.

The Sandinist base at Montelimar, one of the military installations considered impregnable by the Marxist high command, had been attacked by the FDN at night, on Friday, 6 January. The military base includes a landing strip long enough to be used by modern combat aircraft.

Calero indicated that the new attack was carried out by the "14 March Commando," part of the clandestine forces in Managua Department. FDN started its military operations against the Sandinist government on 14 March 1982, with the destruction of the Rio Negro bridge in western Chinandega Department and the Ocotal bridge in northern Nueva Segovia Department.

The FDN commander in chief reported that the "14 March Commando" members attacked the Sandinist military base with mortar fire and then withdrew in an orderly manner; no government patrol intercepted them. He also said that apparently the Sandinist troops could not determine the origin of the attack and, in panic, "fired their artillery in a disorderly and irresponsible manner."

Adolfo Calero said that initial reports indicated there was a high number of casualties among the Sandinist Army's ranks -- including some Cuban military advisers stationed at the communist military base. The anti-Sandinist leader revealed that FDN will continue its guerrilla operations in Managua Department.

Calero said their operations are aimed at restricting the activities of the EPS [Sandinist People's Army], FSLN officers, and members of the State Security forces. The rebel leader asked for the citizens' cooperation to properly carry out the rebel forces' guerrilla operations and issued a call to the people to avoid as much as possible using highways and roads at night throughout Managua Department. "Thus, we will not only avoid the loss of innocent lives but will also be contributing to ousting the nine Sandinist traitors and their internationalist mercenaries," he said.

FDN LEADER CALERO CLAIMS CONTROL OF NORTH

PA100321 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2236 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Caracas, 9 Mar (LATIN-REUTER) -- The commander in chief of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN), Adolfo Calero, said here today that his troops control the northern part of Nicaragua and are only 60 km from Managua. Calero said at a news conference that his forces attacked a Sandinist post with mortar fire 2 days ago, damaging the runway at Montelimar, some 70 km from the capital. He added that his troops suffered no casualties, but that he had been informed that some "Sandinist and Cuban" troops had been wounded during the operation.

Calero spoke to the reporters after meeting here with political leaders from the social democratic government and the opposition "to brief them on the real situation in Nicaragua." The news conference was attended by Alfonso Callejas, the former vice president during the dictatorship of Anastasio Somoza, and Indalecio Rodriguez, both members of the FDN directorate that has centered its operations in the northern part of the country near the Honduran border. The Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE), led by former Commander Cero, Eden Pastora, is fighting the Sandinist forces from positions near the Costa Rican border.

Calero explained that in the operations around the city of Matagalpa, the FDN has "some 10,000 men, all Nicaraguans, and that amount will double in the near future." "We have enough weapons to coninue the fight. We have the edge on the enemy, and we are sure to retain it," he added. Although confident of the success of the military operations, Calero said: "Nevertheless, we are willing to lay down arms to open dialogue. We are not seeking a bellicose solution." An opponent of the Somoza dictatorship, overthrown in 1979 by a civil war, Calero has questioned the Sandinist government's call for elections for the end of the current year. He said that it is first necessary to lift the state of emergency, to end press censorship, to respect the right to meet, and in general to respect all the human rights that have been violated."

ARDE BATTLE REPORTS CARRIED ON VOICE OF SANDINO

Punta Gorda Attack Repelled

PA100430 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 2300 GMT 9 Mar 84

[War Bulletin No 188 released by the General Command of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, Armed Forces in Rio San Juan Department on 5 March]

[Text] The ARDE General Command announces to the Nicaraguan people and the free peoples of the world that:

On 24 February at 1000 in the Cano Boca Tapada community, Punta Gorda jurisdiction, several patrols of the interventionist army tried to encircle our Gaspar Garcia Laviana Column of the Luis Rujo Unit. After 2 hours of fighting, the enemy efforts were frustrated by the expertise and fire power of our column and had to retreat. They left 8 dead and took their wounded with them. Our forces seized assorted war materiel, including one AK-47 rifle, serial No 3685.

Without totalitarianism or a return to the past!

Attack at La Union

PA100457 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 2300 GMT 9 Mar 84

[War Bulletin No 189 released by the General Command of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, A med Forces, in Rio San Juan Department on 8 March]

[Text] The ARDE General Command announces to the Nicaraguan people and the free peoples of the world that:

1. At 0800 on 5 March 1984, our General Francisco Estrada Column of the (Fang 7 Unit), on a search and destroy mission in La Union jurisdiction in Nueva Guinea found a patrol of the interventionist army and engaged them in combat inflicting 6 dead and several wounded on the enemy. Our forces also seized two AK rifles and a large amount of ammunition abandoned by the enemy forces.

2. Our internal resistance reported yesterday that a Panamanian ship, identified as "North Caribe," which approached the port of Corinto, not heeding the warning of the ARDE Armed Forces, was seriously damaged by the explosion of one of our mines.

3. We hope that this incident will serve as warning to other vessels to avoid Nicaraguan ports, because these mines, regrettably, cannot identify nationality. Timely warnings have been issued about our necessary decision to declare the waters of our country war zones. We also acknowledge the orders issued by our General Command to the courageous patrol boats of ARDE's navy to intercept any suspicious vessel in our territorial waters, and after confirming that it is carrying war materiel destined to kill our people, to sink it immediately.

Without totalitarianism or a return to the past!

[Signed] Eden Pastora Gomez, General Commander of the ARDE Armed Forces

BRIEFS

ORTEGA MEETS VENEZUELAN SENATOR -- Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra met with Venezuelan Senate Vice President Hilarion Cardozo at the Cesar Augusto Silva Convention Center, where they discussed domestic and international political topics. Senator Cardozo expressed interest in the life of national hero Colonel Santos Lopez, whose body was returned to Nicaragua on Saturday. Later, Cardozo held a press conference. [Summary] [Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 5 Mar 84 PA] Hilarion Cardozo, first vice president of the Venezuelan Senate, left Nicaragua on 4 March, following a visit at Commander Daniel Ortega's invitation. Cardozo has thus completed a tour of Panama, Nicaragua, and Guatemala to learn about Central American problems. Commander Ortega and he discussed the Latin American and Central American situation, as well as the Nicaraguan democratic process. [Summary] [Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 5 Mar 84 PA]

RAMIRO VALDES MEETS WITH USSR SECURITY OFFICIALS

FL092057 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Ramiro Valdes Menendez, Politburo member of the Cuban Communist Party and minister of interior, has been received by Viktor Chebrikov, alternate Politburo member of the Communist Party and chairman of the USSR's State Security Committee. At the meeting they discussed matters related to the development and strengthening of cooperation between the USSR's State Security Committee and the Cuban Interior Ministry.

Chebrikov congratulated Cuba's vice president of the Councils of Ministers and State on the 25th anniversary of the founding of Cuban state security organizations and expressed admiration for the heroism and firmness of Cuban troops who, under the direction of the Communist Party, have unselfishly defended the revolutionary achievements of the Cuban people throughout the years.

PRESIDENT OF ICRT TO SIGN AGREEMENT WITH USSR

FL101431 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] Nivaldo Herrera, president of the Cuban Institute of Radio and Television, has arrived in the Soviet capital on an official visit. During his stay in Moscow, the Cuban leader will hold talks with Sergey Lapin, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting, and will sign a 2-year cooperation agreement with that institution.

FLAVIO BRAVO IN BRAZZAVILLE FOR TALKS

FL101459 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] Flavio Bravo, president of Cuba's National Assembly of the People's Government, has held talks with his counterpart of the People's Republic of the Congo, Gangou Zalzou. According to a report received from Brazzaville, the two sides praised the exchange of experiences and agreed in views with respect to the international situation.

The president of the Cuban parliament and his delegation paid tribute to the late leader of the People's Republic of the Congo, Marien Ngouabi, at whose mausoleum they laid a floral wreath.

CARLOS LECHUGA ADDRESSES UN ON C.A. HUMAN RIGHTS

FL100240 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Geneva -- Carlos Lechuga, Cuban ambassador to international organizations in Geneva, has condemned the critical human rights situation found in El Salvador, Guatemala, Grenada, Puerto Rico, and the United States.

Speaking before the UN's Human Rights Commission, Lechuga said that the repressive Salvadoran establishment would not exist if it were not sustained by the U.S. Government, which also rejects any political solution to the drama which that Central American country is experiencing.

Referring to information he had on the situation in Guatemala, the Cuban diplomat said that that country has been suffering under a regime of terror for at least 20 years. He also referred to discrimination against ethnic minorities in the United States and mentioned statistics which describe the difference in living condition between blacks, Indians, and Hispanics and that of whites.

OFFICIALS ADDRESS WOMEN'S DAY COMMEMORATION

Vilma Espin Congratulates FMC

FL092120 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Text] Vilma Espin, alternate Politburo member and president of the Federation of Cuban Women [FMC], has addressed the main ceremony to commemorate International Women's Day given by the Organization of Jose Marti Pioneers and the Union of Young Communists [UJC]. In her speech Vilma Espin said: We congratulate each one of you for who you are today and for who you will become in the future, and we are confident that it will be something important and beautiful because each day you demonstrate with grater force all that you can become in the future.

Approximately 10,000 children and adults from Havana attended the ceremony, held at the Pioneers' Jose Marti City.

Espin added that when she stood in front of the congregation of children, she experienced the best possible greeting from the peoples through the expressions extended to her by the children.

Risquet Pays Tribute

FL091712 Havana Television Service in Spanish 2305 GMT 8 Mar 84

[Speech by Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the Politburo and Secretariat of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee, at a ceremony to commemorate International Women's Day held at the FAR Universal Hall in Havana -- live]

[Excerpts] Comrade Vilma Espin, Politburo alternate member and president of the Federation of Cuban Women [FMC]; Politburo and Central Committee comrades; comrades from the FMC; distinguished diplomatic corps representatives; comrades:

In our daily revolutionary work, our people continually find reasons for honoring the efforts and dedication of its daughters and sons who are dedicated to building a new society. However, few tributes have such a rich ideological content, elicit a deeply felt sentiment, or are as pervasive and as popular as International Women's Day, an endeavor started by the revolutionary proletariat and encouraged by Clara Septim and which has become the object of a truly universal feeling.

We are celebrating this 8 March in a period of increased tensions and war conflicts in various parts of the world. It is also a period in which the dangers of a nuclear holocaust, promoted by Yankee imperialism and its unconditional allies, grow from day to day. Such a contingency makes the struggle for peace an unavoidable imperative for a world mobilization to stop those who prefer the roar of weapons to peaceful and creative work and, for this reason, push for an uncontrolled arms race.

Each crisis in Central America, Southern Africa, and the Middle East has been turned into a virtual detonator of conflicts of uncalculable magnitudes. In order to darken the international political scene even more, to this they add the installation of more than 500 medium-range nuclear missiles in Western Europe which are pointed directly at the Soviet Union and other socialist countries.

Never before has the risk of a world war been as great or as tangible as it is now. This has been brought about by the enormous capability and the uncalculable destructive powers of modern weapons which place the efforts of a millennium and the very existence of mankind in danger. Also, never before has there been such an active and determined reaction by peoples to resist submission.

In view of imperialism's drive against socialism, against the national liberation movements, and against social progress, today we put forth resolute action by revolutionaries from around the world, from all honest people. The children who aspire to live and work in the world of their dreams, the youths who refuse to renounce their right to happiness and life, the elderly who deserve a more dignified destiny in their last years, the women who because of the inherent privilege of being able to bear children refuse all that threatens to unjustly and unnecessarely stem this action. All of progressive humanity says no to war and yes to peace among the peoples of the world. [applause]

Today this struggle, tied to the battle against poverty and for liberty, is the most worthy, urgent, and noble struggle. When victorious, it will assure the survival of today's generations and the future of the world's peoples.

In this unceasing struggle by mankind for life and happiness, all of the world's women claim for themselves a more advanced place than mere political convictions, creeds, or ideologies.

On this day, 8 March, we have before us a moving example of the militant love of peace by the world's women, of their combative sentiment against nuclear war demonstrated by the women of the United Kingdom at Greenham Common who have been encircling the U.S. missile base there with their arms for 2 and 1/2 years. [applause]

Today we recall the women who fight for liberty in Nicaragua, El Salvador, Palestine, Lebanon, Sahara and Angola. In these nations, mothers and wives mourn the heroes and martyrs. In the aggressor nations of the United States, Israel, South Africa, and Morocco, there are also mothers who mourn for sons fallen, without glory, during criminal adventures of the Reagan administration and his favorite gendarmes. The constructive will of the socialist countries which, together with all progressive forces, struggle with renewed and militant optimism, joins the cry for life and hope of the world's women.

In spite of the critical and dangerous international political situation in which we live, we are absolutely convinced that the cause of peace will triumph throughout the world. [applause] Imperialism and its allies dementedly advance the arms race and consume enormous riches which are created by the peoples of the world. However, they are unable to stop the just rebelliousness of the masses. They will not break the will of so many millions of people or stop the impetuous advance of the Soviet Union and the socialist bloc which, repudiating violence and war because of their humanistic spirit, are also willing to preserve peace with the force of our reason and the reason of our force. [applause]

In our socialist homeland, blockaded and harassed for 25 years and now experiencing the constant threat of a direct attack by Yankee imperialism, this struggle means the fulfillment of the two basic missions outlined by the party and our commander in chief: production and defense. Moved by this slogan, our people are actively working to give the party and Fidel a proper response in which Cuban women have shown -- as they have done throughout the past 25 years -- that they deserve the utmost confidence and are worthy of the invincible revolution which they made theirs forever. [applause]

Today our women represent more than 35 percent of the country's total labor force -- including permanent salaried employees of the public sector as well as peasants. For this reason, this figure is not the same as the figure given a few days ago. More than 2.6 million women are members of the vigorous FMC [applause], most of whom are mothers who are combatants and health brigade members. Thousands of these women fill our school classrooms, institutes, and universities, or have received degrees as doctors, teachers, architects, engineers, economists, educators, scientists, technicians, and officers of our glorious FAR and the Interior Ministry. [applause]

Our party has become stronger with the increased membership of our comrades and it can already show, with true pride, the fact that more than 20 percent of our total membership, almost 100,000 militants, are communist women. [applause] The percentage of female members of the UJC [Union of Young Communists] has reached 40 percent. In other words, we have 220,000 young communist women. [applause]

We also have another revealing figure: By December 1983, we had 22,705 women who were cooperative members, that is 27 percent of all of the members of the agricultural production cooperative. [applause] It is a known fact -- and Comrade Pepe Ramirez probably agrees with me -- that women are the most enthusiastic members of cooperatives. They are the driving force behind our superior method of peasant production. [applause]

In pondering the valuable contribution which our women make to society, and to the accomplishments of economic goals in the country, and thinking about the large number of women who have joined the battalions of the Territorial Militia Troops, we must recognize the progress made in the struggle for their full equality, thanks to the irreplaceable role played by the FMC headed by dear Comrade Vilma Espin [applause] who for more than two decades of tireless, patient, and creative work has contributed greatly to the process of their full independence.

The long and hard struggle for women's equality will not be won unless we have duly guaranteed the objective conditions that give women an increasing opportunity to join fully in socially useful work. To have enough jobs for women and everyone in a growing population, we must continue our planned economic and social development.

There is something very important which Comrade Fidel highlighted in the 15th Congress of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions: At the national level, women represent 53 percent of the technicians, 68.4 percent of the workers in the educational sector, 48 percent of the workers in the commerce sector, 42 percent of the cultural and artistic workers, 34 percent of the workers in industry, 45 percent of the pediatricians, 64 percent of the opthalmologists, and almost 60 percent of the dentists. Fidel asked: If these figures are so obvious and irrefutable, why don't we have more women in the leadership of the party, the state, and the mass organization?

We are undoubtedly facing a problem of an underestimation of women, which has a paternalistic nature and shows a selective discrimination that, with subtle actions, closes the door on greater responsibilities for them.

The party, from its highest levels to the rank and file, gives -- but it must give even more -- constant attention to the solution of all of these problems, objective as well as subjective, which hinder the full exercise of women's equality and their active incorporation into the country's economic, political, and social life and their active incorporation into the leadership of the country's economic, political, and social life. [applause]

Our society expects a lot from women in their enthusiastic and dedicated contribution to the great socialist work. We fully trust in women's contributions, along with men, in the mission to defend the revolution and its beautiful achievements, and in the overall formation of our children.

Approximately 95 years ago, in the commemoration of 10 October, in calling all Cubans to fight for the liberation of the homeland, Jose Marti said: We can discuss war in front of our women. [applause] At the present time, when our commander in chief calls on our people to be prepared to defend the liberated fatherland, we repeat this phrase by Marti and support it with this report: Today we created the first women's anti-aircraft artillery regiment of our heroic and unbeaten FAR. [applause]

Dear comrades: On this day of profound joy and ideological reaffirmation when, on behalf of our party's Central Committee, we pay tribute to Cuban women who embellish the victorious work of the people with the sweetness of their endless love and optimistic dedication, we also want to greet the women of the world. First, we want to greet the fraternal Soviet women [applause] whose sons have forged and defended socialism, thus rendering a valuable service to mankind. We greet the women of the rest of the socialist countries, in Europe and Asia, who are involved in the building of the new society. We greet the women who in our America work very hard for a future of independence and social justice. We greet the long suffering African women who also hope to put misery and oppression behind and achieve the happiness they deserve. We greet the women of the so-called Third World, as well as those who, in capitalist and developed countries, struggle for work instead of nuclear missiles. [applause]

Onward, dear comrades in the battle for life and happiness, peace and socialism. [applause]
Viva the FMC! [Crowd: "Viva!"]
Viva the Cuban Communist Party! [Crowd: "Viva!"]
Viva Fidel! [Crowd: "Viva!"]
Fatherland or death! [Crowd: "We shall win!"]

Raul Castro Notes Defense Contribution

FL100230 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Message addressed to the Federation of Cuban Women, FMC, by Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee, on the occasion of International Women's Day]

[Text] Havana, 8 March 1984, year of the 25th anniversary of the triumph of the revolution's FMC National Directorate.

Esteemed comrades:

On the occasion of 8 March, International Women's Day, the members of the FAR, along with the Cuban peoples, pay warm homage to the Cuban women who play an important role in our society. There is hardly an activity in the country to which you do not lend your valuable assistance.

At present we note with satisfaction that women have claimed the front-line of the nation's defense just as Mariana Grajales, Dominga Moncada, Ana Betancour, Vivia Doce, Clodomira Serral, and Celia Sanchez did in their time. Proof of this is the overwhelming number of women entering the Territorial Militia Troops and jobs related to the military in the people's preparation. It is of significance to note the political and ideological development attained by the female population. In this area, the FMC has made a valuable contribution, worthy of recognition.

I take this opportunity to extend a wish for further success in your work and to convey to all Cuban women our most sincere congratulations.

Fraternally, General of the Army Raul Castro Ruz

LABOR MEETING ANALYZES WOMEN'S JOB PROBLEMS

FL100145 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] Women's job problems were analyzed this afternoon in the second national meeting of Women's Labor Commissions held at the offices of the State Committee for Labor and Social Security. The meeting was presided over by Vilma Espin, president of the Federation of Cuban Women, and Roberto Veiga, secretary of the CTC [Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions] -- both of them alternate members of the party's Politburo -- as well as by Joaquin Benavides, alternate member of the Central Committee and minister president of the State Committee for Labor and Social Security.

In the report on the tasks accomplished, it was said that the largest number of female workers joined the labor force in the areas of public health, education, commerce, and the light and food industries, as well as in local industries. It was learned that 7 out of every 10 men and 3 out of every 10 women quit their jobs during the period analyzed in the meeting.

Espin spoke at the meeting, noting that there are provinces where difficulties are being faced. In these provinces, she said, the Women's Labor Commissions must play their role and make a special effort. She added that the battle for women's equality can be fought with the help of the most recent labor regulations. She also said that close attention must be paid to the enforcement of the labor law now in effect and that no violations must be tolerated, particularly when it comes to contracts.

DOMENECH DISCUSSES ENERGY-SAVING ACTIVITIES

FL091348 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Joel Domenech, member of the Central Committee and chairman of the National Energy Commission, has reported on the important activities dealing with energy saving which will take place in April and May.

Domenech, who is also a vice president of the Council of Ministers, spoke at a meeting of the Isle of Youth Special Municipality Commission and pointed out that the assemblies that will analyze energy-saving measures should make detailed preparations before their meetings. He said that in September or October, the plans that are made in April and May will be reviewed in preparation for the first national energy forum, which will take place in November of this year.

Domenech referred to the letter that Commander in Chief Fidel Casto sent to work places where energy consumption is high, in which he requested that efforts be made toward saving and efficiency in the use of energy.

MULTILATERAL CUSTOMS AGREEMENT RATIFIED

FL101522 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] The Cuban Government has ratified the multilateral agreement on mutual cooperation and assistance signed by the national customs services of several countries. The agreement's objective is to provide support in the investigation and handling of customs infractions, and to establish cooperation in the modernization of national customs services and the simplification of procedures and paperwork in customs formalities to expedite cargo handling and passenger travel.

LEBANESE COMMUNIST PARTY DELEGATION DEPARTS

FL091315 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Jesus Montane Oropesa, alternate member of the Politburo, member of the Secretariat, and chief of the Central Committee Foreign Relations General Department, last night bid farewell to George Hawi, secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Party.

Prior to departure, George Hawi spoke to the national media about the spirit of cooperation and friendship he had found in our country during his visit, mainly during the talks held with Commander in Chief Fidel Castro. The Lebanese communist leader referred to the responsible interest with which the chief of our revolution closely follows the events in Lebanon, and the point to which he perceives a link between that struggle and those being waged in Cuba, Central America, and the Caribbean.

YUGOSLAV DELEGATION VISITS SANTIAGO DE CUBA

FL101616 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1525 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] The delegation headed by Borut Miklavcic, minister of public health of Slovania, Republic of Yugoslavia, which is visiting Santiago de Cuba, has toured the Saturnino Lora Provincial Hospital and new municipal polyclinic of Santiago de Cuba. At the Saturnino Lora Hospital, the visitors received a complete description of its general services before touring its installations.

ARGENTINE TRADE DELEGATION TO VISIT SOON

FL101358 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] The Argentine Embassy in Havana has announced the upcoming arrival of a delegation headed by Secretary of Commerce in the Economy Ministry Ricardo Campero, who is accompanied by the under secretaries of industry and resources of that sister South American nation.

Argentine Ambassador to Cuba Luis Raul Claraso reported that the delegation will be comprised of officials of stage agencies and businessmen. The delegation members will hold talks with several topics dealing with bilateral relations, trade, and maritime transportation, among others.

URUGUAYAN COMMUNIST MEMBER DISCUSSES MEDIA

PA082326 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Interview with (Eduardo Viera), a journalist and member of the Executive Committee of the Communist Party of Uruguay, by Pedro Martinez Pirez; place and date not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Martinez] First, would you please tell us the main reason for your current visit to our country?

['Viera'] The generosity of the Cuban people, especially the Journalists' Union, has allowed us to celebrate here in Havana -- the capital of the first socialist country in America -- anniversaries of our beloved Uruguayan communist press. EL POPULAR, our newspaper during the [name indistinct] days, would be celebrating its 27th anniversary, but it was only published for 17 years because the Armed Forces took over its offices and printing equipment, closed the newspaper, and arrested some of its personnel.

We have also been celebrating the efforts of our clandestine press. Only a few days after EL POPULAR was closed, the weekly CARTA began to circulate. Its publication has been a very important and heroic effort by our members, who have defied imprisonment and endangered their lives many times to maintain through CARTA active opposition to the dictatorship and ongoing evidence of our party's existence.

We are also celebrating the first anniversary of MAYORIA, a bi-weekly newspaper published in Sweden for Uruguayans in exile. This bi-weekly is sold in Buenos Aires and is also distributed in Uruguay. It fulfills a very important task in this new situation being experienced in Uruguay: It gives Uruguayans in exile a new outlook on what is going on. It will be increasingly present in Uruguay and will attempt to create unity by aiding the exiles' return and helping in the struggle being waged by the people of Uruguay within the country, especially in the cause of freedom for political prisoners.

[Martinez] (Viera), you were the director of EL POPULAR, and now you are working for a medium that diffuses revolutionary thought in Uruguay. We have learned that MAYORIA is being read in Uruguay. Is MAYORIA reflecting the unusually rapid dynamics occurring there?

['Viera'] As for your first remark, yes, I was indeed director of EL POPULAR from its foundation until its closure. I am linked to all propoaganda forces of the party before and after the coup, as well as to the ESTUDIOS magazine. This magazine played an important role prior to the coup. Later, we disseminated it in other countries, and it is still being clandestinely published throughout Uruguay. I have also been linked to the various radio broadcasts of stations throughout the world, owing to cooperation from our allies, that is to say, the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. In addition, I have become linked to MAYORIA, which, despite being a biweekly publication, makes an effort to seem like a newspaper. It being so, [word indistinct] to publish (?a paper) in the country's interior, it makes an effort to actively keep alive the new processes that are (?occurring) in Uruguay. [end recording]

POST CITED ON U.S. 'GRENADIER I' MANEUVERS

PA110354 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Text] The government of President Ronald Reagan will dispatch in the next few days the aircraft carrier "America" and four support warships to reinforce the U.S. military presence in Central America before the Salvadoran elecions, according to a dispatch from THE WASHINGTON POST.

The paper recalled that the "Big Pine II" U.S.-Honduran military maneuvers, which lasted for more than 6 months, concluded in Honduras last February. It also noted that the so-called "Grenadier I" military maneuvers are scheduled to start next June, when the U.S. presence is expected to increase. The paper adds that these maneuvers, designed to intimidate the Nicaraguan Sandinist regime and to support the Salvadoran Government imply that the Pentagon has also prompted the building of air and naval bases, thus setting the stage for a permanent U.S. military presence in Honduras.

In Tegucigalpa, meanwhile, Colonel James Strachan, spokesman for the U.S. Southern Command, declared that despite U.S. Senate opposition, the "Grenadier I" military maneuvers will be held with participation of the U.S., Honduran, Guatemalan, and Salvadoran Armed Forces. The first phase of these maneuvers will take place on the border between Honduras and El Salvador, while the second phase will be held in eastern Olancho Department, on the Honduran border with Nicaragua.

HONDURAN TROOPS ATTACK SALVADORAN TOWN

Guerrilla Units on Alert

PA100421 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] The guerrilla radio stations Radio Venceremos and Radio Farabundo Marti have reported that the Honduran Army attacked the Salvadoran town of (Palo Nuevo) and deployed a large number of troops along the Salvadoran border, especially in Cabanas, Chalatenango, and Morazan Departments. U.S. diplomatic sources admitted in San Salvador a few days ago that Honduran troops might be transferred to the Salvadoran border, in their words, to guarantee the security of the upcoming elections in that country.

The FMLN General Command ordered its guerrilla units to remain on alert and reiterated that it will defend Salvadoran soil against any foreign attack. International press agencies have reported that in the past few hours guerrilla units occupied La Laguna in Chalatenango Department and San Esteban Catarina in San Vicente Department. Meanwhile, fierce clashes continued in different parts of Usulutan and San Miguel Departments.

In San Salvador, some 37,500 workers are continuing a strike, demanding wage increases and other benefits. The latest reports say that the Army raided the installations of the Supply Regulation Institute and the National Administration of Waterworks and Sewers. There is fear of a similar action at the Salvadoran Social Security Institute, which, like the other two institutions, has been paralyzed by the strike.

Emergency Maneuvers Initiated

PA111823 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] [Words indistinct] will initiate emergency military maneuvers on the border between Honduras and El Salvador on 15 March. Insurgent radio station Radio Venceremos confirmed that, to this effect, 10,000 U.S. Marines will be transferred from the Panama Canal area to Honduras and stressed that, since the first days in March, Honduran troops have been mobilized to several points on the border, especially along Chalatenango, Cabanas, and Morazan Departments.

In the past few days, Honduran troops entered Salvadoran territory through El Alumbrador Hill and other areas in Morazan Department. After describing the 15 March military exercises as a new U.S. interventionist escalation against El Salvador, Radio Farabundo Marti [as heard] stated that all of the guerrilla forces are on alert. The FMLN will try to avoid any provocations, but if the United States and Honduras invade, there will be arms and men to defend our fatherland until we win, the station added.

U.S. OFFICIAL ARRIVES IN HONDURAS FROM PANAMA

PA100326 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] William Taft, U.S. under secretary of defense, has arrived in Tegucigalpa from Panama and says that his country plans to meet with Honduran President Roberto Suazo and Army Chief General Gustavo Alvarez. He also visited the Palmerola Military Base, where over 1,700 U.S. soldiers, who participated in the recent U.S.-Honduran maneuvers, are now stationed. In Panama, Taft met with National Guard Chief General Manuel Antonio Noriega, with whom he discussed matters related to the present political situation in Central America. General Paul Gorman, chief of the U.S. Army Southern Command, which is based in the Canal Zone, was present at these meetings. It has been reported that William Taft will later visit El Salvador.

BORGE COMMENTS ON MINING OF NICARAGUAN PORTS

FL092025 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1900 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Commander Tomas Borge has said in Managua that the mining of Nicaraguan ports establishes a precedent in Latin America whose final results are unpredictable. In talks with members of an FRG Lutheran Church delegation, he added that the criminal irresponsibility of the current U.S. Administration has reached such levels that no one will be safe anywhere in the world. Borge mentioned statements issued by revolutionary organizations in El Salvador and Guatemala repudiating this new tactic against Nicaragua and warned that they will respond to the United States if it continues to implement this brutal practice. A mine placed in the waters of El Bluff port 2 weeks ago killed two sailors and caused considerable damage. Another mine that went off 2 days ago damaged a Panamanian ship.

NICARAGUA HOLDS U.S. RESPONSIBLE FOR ATTACKS

FL092055 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1900 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] The terrorist attacks carried out by counterrevolutionaries and mercenaries financed and led by the CIA threaten peace in Central America. A note issued by the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry has said that Nicaragua holds the U.S. Government responsible for casualties and damages caused by these attacks.